FBIS DAILY REPORT

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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TRIPARTITE PARANA TALKS

PY281853Y [illegible]is AFP in Spanish 1822 GMT 28 Apr PY

[Text] Asuncion, 28 Apr--The trilateral meeting held by Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil to disucss the exploitation of the Parana River ended at midday today in Asuncion. A communique was issued which indicates that differences still exist with regard to the basic issue.

In its communique regarding the negotiations to harmonize the joint hydroelectric projects, the trilateral meeting said that the Brazilian delegation had presented a proposal for a waterhead which was not accepted by Argentina. The communique stated that the Brazilian proposal "showed relative flexibility while still reflecting its interests, and it suggested that Brasilia be the site of the next foreign ministers' meeting."

The communique added that the Paraguayan delegation "declared that it would take note of Brazil's proposal and that it would be studied in accordance with Paraguay's own interests and within the spirit which prevails at the trilateral meetings."

The final session of the tripartite meeting ended at the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry at around 1300 today (1700 GMT).

The final communique indicated that, "with reference to Brazil's proposal, the Argentine delegation decided to reject it because it fails to provide the minimum required for an agreement." According to the communique, the Argentine delegation added that it did not accept Brazil's proposal "because its relative flexibility is not equivalent to that of the proposal the Argentine Government had made during the prior meeting."

It must be pointed out, aside from this communique, that the Brazilian proposal seems to deal with the possibility of building the future Paraguayan-Argentine Corpus dam with a waterhead of slightly over 100 meters and close to 103 meters.

The communique indicated that, in response to Brazil's invitation to a tripartite foreign ministers meeting in Brazilia, the Argentine delegation answered that "this is always a possibility, and it may turn out to be necessary." The communique added that the Argentine delegation emphasized that "first it is necessary to establish the minimum basis for an agreement."

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT PROTESTS FRENCH ARMS TESTS

PA281220Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0205 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Apr (EFE)--It was reported here today that the Latin American Parliament has firmly protested to the French Government concerning its use of Latin American territory as a testing ground for sophisticated weapons of great destructive power. Mexican Deputy Victor Manzanilla Schaffer, who is president of the Latin American Parliament, which includes the countries of the region, has announced that he presented the protest in fulfillment of an agreement concluded at the recent interparliamentary meeting in Surinam. The legislator said that the Latin American Parliament has sufficient documentary information to show that France is using French Guiana as an arms testing site. He said that, according to the accusation of the Surinam legislators, France is also testing atomic arms there. Manzanilla Schaffer added that if the latter is true, "France would be flagrantly violating the Tlatelolco treaty, which prohibits the use or storage of atomic arms in Latin America."

23 RANKING OFFICERS TRY TO SOLVE DEADLOCK OVER PRESIDENCY

PY291244Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires--Twenty-three high-ranking officers from the three branches of the armed forces of Argentina held a surprise meeting to try to solve the crisis in their government. The meeting took place after the military junta failed to reach the necessary unanimous decision for Gen Rafael Videla to continue as president during the second phase of the reorganization plan.

Military sources indicated that President Videla had two votes in his favor--from the army and the air force--and one vote against him--from the navy--during the voting to decide whether he would be the retired military official who would be president for the next 3 years.

Nine major generals, eight vice admirals and six brigadier generals--the highest-ranking officers of each of the armed forces' branches--were called to the meeting, which took place at air force headquarters.

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 2204 GMT on 28 April reports that the meeting was presided over by Brig Gen Miguel Angel Osses, commander of air operations.]

PARANA DISCUSSIONS AT STANDSTILL, SAYS NEGOTIATOR

PY291915Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1743 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Apr--It was officially announced here today that trilateral negotiations between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay to reach agreement on the hydroelectric use of the Parana River will continue in the future through normal diplomatic channels.

That statement was made at Ezeiza airport by Capt Gualter Allara, Argentine foreign relations under secretary, who returned this afternoon after attending the tripartite conference in Paraguay, at which the Itaipu project (Brazil-Paraguay) and the Corpus project (Argentina-Paraguay) were discussed.

"It has not been specifically established how the negotiations will continue," the diplomat told newsmen who asked him about the term "failure" which some circles had attached to the Asuncion meeting.

He added: "The Argentine Government intends to continue the negotiations in the same spirit it has shown until now, and also in the conviction that an agreement among the three countries is not only possible but necessary."

Allara said that although no agreement had been reached in regard to the projects to use upper Parana River waters, "very important points of agreement were reached" on other aspects of the subject, "such as the possibility of harmonious operation of the two dams."

The Argentine foreign relations under secretary added: "At this time there can be no talk of failure regarding negotiations which we knew would be long and difficult." He concluded: "The progress of the meetings has now come to a standstill, but I do not believe it would be constructive or wise to call it a failure."

'COMMITTEE OF 25' DECIDES AGAINST ILO ATTENDANCE

PY270243Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr--The Committee of 25 decided, at the end of a meeting held in this capital tonight, to postpone a decision regarding the attendance of a labor delegation at the ILO assembly, conditioning the decision on a satisfactory answer from the official sector to several requests submitted by the labor sector.

A communique released by the Committee of 25 indicates that the final decision on the attendance of a labor group to Geneva "will be decided during a plenum of nonintervened and intervened unions."

The Committee of 25 made this decision after being informed today that the General Labor Confederation [CGT] interventor called all union groups represented in the CGT to meet next Tuesday at 0900 "to be ready to vote to decide whether or not to attend the ILO assembly and the eventual nomination of candidates."

The Committee of 25 also released a communique regarding May Day, in which they make a call for national unity and reiterate requests recently made by this group.

MRS PERON, LOPEZ REGA, OTHERS FACE NEW CHARGES

PY282218Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1925 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Apr--Federal Judge Rafael Sarmiento charged former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, former Presidential Technical Secretary Julio Carlos Gonzalez and former Technical Under Secretary Luis Miguel Caballero as perpetrators and accomplices in embezzlement of presidential reserve funds.

The court ordered an embargo of 324 million pesos from Mrs Peron, 64 million pesos from Gonzalez and 32 million pesos from Caballero.

The court also ordered the preventive custody of Jose Lopez Rega, former social welfare minister, and Carlos A. Villone, former technical secretary, on the same charges as the others and an embargo, the same as for Mrs Peron, for these two former officials.

With regard to Lopez Rega and Villone, the court has sent through diplomatic channels a request for their extraditions from countries in Europe and this continent.

CLARIN QUESTIONS NEED FOR CLOSURE OF PAPERS

PY251419Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 24 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Freedom of the Press"]

[Text] Once again it is necessary to take the floor in defense of freedom of the press in Argentina. This is contradictory to the situation which we are experiencing. Journalistic entities are managed with great care. The government does not exercise undue pressure.

There are, however, sudden unwanted conflicts which result in the closure of publications for several days without issuing the proper information to the public so that it may be informed about what is truly important, that is, the decision regarding important issues which will define the destiny of the nation for several years.

The print medium follows without difficulties the general course of the process. If it does have some difficulties, it does so with truly controversial subjects which are difficult to interpret or about which the government does not want to release any information.

The present national reorganization process is aimed at the restoration of a modern and new democracy which will genuinely represent and interpret issues pertaining to national unity. This goal conditions the paths which will lead to its achievement. If we are dealing with enforcement or arbitrary measures, the press should be informed what to expect in this situation. But we are discussing a completely different issue here. This is a process which is trying to expand methods of participation, with the objective of achieving "a civilian-military agreement," within the framework of strict armed forces unity. This unity, however, does not mean inflexibility [monolitismo]. No one could assume that a given problem could elicit identical answer. A difference of opinions is inherent in shared leadership. What is important, on the contrary, is the promotion of similar objectives and the enforcement of resolutions once these have been established after a necessary debate. This method is the essence of the gradual opening of the process in which only subversives and corrupt persons have been excluded.

This is why press reaction should be highly praised. No news medium could be forgiven by its readers the wrongdoing of publishing false information. There is a relationship of credibility between editors and readers. Therefore, the correction of an unofficial report made by a responsible government organization is by itself sufficient to annul the information published. The closure for 3 days of the newspapers CRONICA and LA OPINION published in the federal capital is an event which does not contribute to clarifying for the public the great subjects concerning our common destiny, and this destiny alone is reason enough for us to be concerned.

Therefore, there is a contradiction between the leadership of the process, which wants to stay close enough to sectors of the population which are included in the so-called "civil-military agreement," and the application of partial measures which really confuse public opinion.

Freedom of the press is a basic element for restoring democracy and all kinds of sacrifices should be made to keep it and perfect it, particularly when there have never been situations challenging the current process and when the only reason for which the print medium can be punished--according to this commentary--apparently is its desire to inform its readers, that is, the essence of its existence.

EXTREMIST HIDEOUT DISCOVERED AFTER EXPLOSION

PY271630Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1456 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr--An explosion early this morning in Villa Ballester, 25 km north of this city, severely wounded the woman who lived in the house and led to the discovery of an extremist hideout, according to reliable sources.

The explosion took place at 3699 Darragueira Street, Villa Ballester, and security and police forces had to help a woman who lived in the house. The woman was severely wounded and had to be taken to a nearby hospital.

It was discovered that the house was being used as a hideout for extremists and that it contained material for manufacturing bombs.

The explosion appears to have occurred when the woman handled these explosive materials.

Army personnel took charge of the case and confiscated all subversive materials.

DETAINED, MISSING FRENCH CITIZENS REPORTED

PY261512Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr--Eleven French citizens are in Argentine prisons and nine have "disappeared" without a trace, it was asserted in diplomatic circles here today.

Among the missing are six women, the youngest 21 and the oldest 62.

The sources indicated that some details of what happened to the missing eleven are known. Five were sentenced by military courts to prison terms of from 3 to 15 years. Six who have double nationality, including two women of 21 and 28, are at the disposal of the executive branch, but have not yet been tried.

Although diplomatic circles know that these French or French-Argentines are in prison now, the whereabouts of the nine missing persons is still unknown. All disappeared without trace after being kidnaped by groups of armed men who came looking for them in cars without license plates. The two missing French nuns are in this group--Alice Domon, kidnaped on 8 December 1977 when she was leaving mass, and Leonie Duquet, 62, kidnaped from her house on 10 December 1977. Two other young women and five men are also in the missing group. Despite all efforts made by the French Embassy and Consulate in Argentina, it has been impossible to obtain any information on the whereabouts of the group. Some of them were kidnaped before the 24 March coup d'etat.

POLICE KILL 1, WOUND ANOTHER IN SHOOTOUT

PY271602Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1150 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Plata, 27 Apr--The police have reported that during a vehicle control operation carried out by personnel of the Moron regional unit in the city of Moreno, Buenos Aires Province, police identified a car recently stolen in Castelar. The occupants attacked the security officers with firearms, starting a shootout which ended in the death of one of the criminals. This took place at the intersection of Gaona Avenue and Victoria Street. When police intercepted the car, for which they had an arrest order because it was stolen, the suspects tried to escape on foot while shooting at the policemen. The police counterattacked and one of the criminals was killed, while the two others escaped, one of them wounded. The police seized a large number of firearms found in the car.

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO SEIZURE OF UNIVERSITY BY STUDENTS

PY281440Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] The Supreme Teachers-Students Council of the Greater University of San Andres [UMSA] occupied the offices of the rector, vice rector, secretary general and administration of the university yesterday afternoon. This was done in accordance with a decision made by the general assembly. The event took place at about 1400.

This morning's issue of PRESENCIA reports that police and civilian Interior Ministry personnel occupied the main UMSA building this morning, thus putting an end, the paper says, to a student action which proclaimed the restoring of university autonomy at UMSA.

University Closed

PY282244Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2223 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 28 April--The Bolivian military government today ordered the temporary closure of the University of La Paz after the university council expelled its rector. The announcement was made by Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez after a cabinet meeting in the presidential palace which lasted 7 hours. The temporary closure orders does not indicate when the university will reopen. Jimenez blamed "a minority of political extremists who were not recognized by the legally established university officials." University leaders said that classes will be held in hospitals, high schools and union facilities and that "they will not tolerate the suspension of academic activity." The state-owned university has 18,000 registered students and is the largest in Bolivia.

Interior Minister Discusses Takeover

PY290258Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] The Interior Ministry has ordered the arrest of any person who has caused any damage in the San Andres University of La Paz. These remarks were made by Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo who also indicated that there are legal provisions to apply the penal code because the university is owned by the state. With regard to government intervention in all areas of the university, the minister said:

[begin Jimenez recording] Actions have been taken to impose order with the aim of returning the university to the proper officials in order to normalize or try to normalize the situation. Tremendous damage has been done within the university and I believe that this is not the way to treat government property which belongs to all Bolivians, an institution which belongs to the nation and which is paid for by all Bolivians. No one has the right to treat it this way. All the time necessary to [words indistinct] normalize university activities. The first priority is the public interest and criminal proceedings have begun in accordance with the penal code regarding the damage done. We know who caused this damage. Besides, we must put the university back in condition to carry out its educational activities. We cannot manage the university, teachers and future professionals under conditions which are not acceptable. [end recording]

He pointed out that the warrant for the arrest of those responsible for the damages to a government property which belongs to all Bolivian people has been issued.

He charged that some political parties, including the Communist Vanguard Party and the Revolutionary Workers Party, are responsible for the current situation. He also said that these are actions of a political nature carried out by extremists who are making the university their trenches. He said, however, that the intervention of San Andres University does not mean that we are going against political parties.

[begin Jimenez recording] We are not going against political parties. We are going against criminals who have created this problem and who have thwarted university activities. What right do they have on their authority to dismiss officials, present [word indistinct] and try to do justice or handle things in their own manner?

If we let them do these things [words indistinct] because undoubtedly their actions prove that they are antidemocratic; those who take actions into their own hands are denying a democratic process. The legally established officials at all levels of the university are the ones logically authorized to make proposals to solve problems related to the university, not the actions of a group of people which we may call criminal, since we cannot identify them any other way. Their attitude was completely antidemocratic, therefore, we could not let them continue because it was against the democratic process which all the Bolivian people want. [end recording]

SILES ZUAZO ENDORSED FOR PRESIDENCY BY FUDP

PY290340Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] proclaimed former President Hernan Siles Zuazo a presidential candidate for the forthcoming elections. A demonstration was held in the 14 September Park of this city with the attendance of people of different social sectors, professionals, workers, intellectuals, businessmen, factory workers and mineworkers.

Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo said that the revolution carried out on 9 April 1952 is an unrenounceable patrimony which the Bolivian people must defend with the sacrifice of their lives. Here are the words of the former president:

[begin Siles recording] The new Bolivia began by building new roads, distributing land to peasants, giving the right to vote to everyone, mobilizing factory workers, miners, peasants and the Bolivian Labor Central. All of these measures allowed our people to become, in their own way, a part of our history and to shout to the whole world that Bolivia was on its feet, just as it is now to serve all Bolivians, just as it is now to defend and fulfill our destiny in the face of the false Bolivia which is headed by the government of the wealthy. In this new civilian-military struggle the so-called technocrats and intellectuals [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Siles Zuazo, whose speech won constant applause and shouts from the massive rally which filled the downtown area of the Garita de Lima, proposed to build a free Bolivia where all the people will live without being exploited and without the impositions of imperialism. He also attacked supporters of the extreme right and left. These are his remarks: [begin Siles recording] That is why we are here, comrades, to carry out the Bolivian national revolution, to decide, without foreign pressure or fascist advisers, what we have to do for our country. [end recording] At the end of the demonstration the people moved through the main streets of La Paz, going through Perez Velasco and Murillo Parks and stopping in El Prado.

COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER KOLLE CUETO INTERVIEWED

PY241830Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Apr 78 PY

[From "Facetas" program; interview with Bolivian Communist Party First Secretary Jorge Kolle Cueto on 23 April]

[Excerpts] [Question] Excuse me, I realize that my question is somewhat uncalled for, but people in general view the Communist Party, not only in Bolivia but also elsewhere in the world, as an extremist group. Could you give us a brief outline of the party's doctrine?

[Answer] The Bolivian Communist Party follows Marxist-Leninist doctrine. It epitomizes the desires of the Bolivian working class and follows revoutionary methods by emphasizing the role of the working class in the country's political struggle.

[Question] Since we are talking about what some people think about the Communist Party, I would like to ask you what the relations are between Bolivian Communist Party [PCB] and the USSR's Communist Party?

[Answer] The PCB maintains fraternal relations, based on the principle of proletarian internationalism, with all communist and workers parties of the world. It is obvious that this same relationship applies to the CPSU.

[Question] It is believed that the Communist Party is more accustomed to operating underground than legally. What can you tell us about it?

[Answer] Well, it is not that we are more accustomed to working underground, nor do we like working underground. There is no doubt that we would rather engage in an open democratic struggle. Both the party and the working class have more opportunity to develop their organization and activities in the manner required by the needs of the people when operating legally. However, the PCB is organically prepared to cope with whatever contingency.

[Question] When the PCB is working underground, does it ever consider the possibility of a coup d'etat?

[Answer] At no point has the PCB encouraged or harbored hopes of solving the country's political problems by means of a coup d'etat. My party is against any political option which seeks to solve the country's political situation by means other than mass participation.

[Question] Mr Kolle, is the PCB a representative party or is it a "miniparty," as we say here? How does it gain access to the masses?

[Answer] For a long time now the Communist Party has been a nationwide party. It has an organization throughout the country and is active at present in every sector and level of world activity.

[Question] We have a lot more to discuss about the party. How about telling us something about the leanings of this party? We would like to know whether it is democratic or national leftwing, always within the Bolivian political framework.

[Answer] The term "leftist" is being used very carelessly. In Bolivia no one accepts belonging to the right. The official candidate, Juan Pereda, says that he is a representative of nationalist revolutionary groups. Essentially, the Communist Party is a leftist organization which defends the interests of the working class. [passage indistinct]

[Question] At this point the Communist Party has announced that it has joined a leftwing front which is supporting the candidacy of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo. Why don't we talk a bit about fronts? Why does the Communist Party take part in them? What is the ideological basis for this participation? And do you believe it has a chance in the coming elections?

[Answer] The front which is made up of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, the Bolivian Communist Party, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] and the Socialist Party seeks to provide a political and organizational answer to the current political situation of the country.

[Question] So you believe that this front has a chance in the current electoral process of the country?

[Answer] Well, within the framework of a front--which is in no way restricted to a mere electoral coalition--there is no doubt that we must take advantage of the coming elections to develop the possibilities of the front. If they [the government] play a tune, we must dance.

[Question] According to public opinion, this front of yours had to face severe difficulties in its formation. How did it come into being and what restrictions on either the right or left were followed in the selection of the parties to make up the front?

[Answer] There is no doubt that a front does not come from mere contacts between the leaders. The creation of a front demands objective development in order to cope with factional elements which tend to hinder the development of the process. We have been developing fronts ever since 1953 and my party has had positive experiences in Bolivian political history. There is the example of the national liberation front in 1953, or the national liberation front of 1965-1966, or the fronts developed later, the [words indistinct], the agreement with the National Left Liberation Alliance the political alliance with General Torres, the front created to struggle against dictatorship, which led us to organize the United Labor Front and the National Democratic Front. All this shows that we have been constantly engaged in creating fronts. The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] is the result of the struggle against fascism. For the past 6 years we have been building this front. At the beginning the Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left, [PRIN] Lechin's party, had been part of the front. Unfortunately PRIN recently abandoned the front and its place has been taken by the MIR.

[Question] As to the other parties which lean farther to the left than those included in this front of yours, they are not part of it because [words indistinct] or because of other reasons?

[Answer] Our front is a democratic front. Its aim is to be the vanguard of the struggle against fascism, which is the main problem that the country is currently facing. All forces which have been or are prepared to struggle against fascism are obviously welcome in this front. There is no room for those groups which reject the need for a democratic struggle, such as in the case of Trotskyism.

[Question] Mr Kolle, you said that if the government plays a tune the front will dance. Does this mean that should the front win at the coming elections, through popular support, it will respect the parliamentary system, or does it plan to change the system?

[Answer] It is obvious that we do not support bourgeois parliamentary systems. Nevertheless, parliament and elections are a means to achieve revolutionary goals. In no way can they be our final objective, but they certainly constitute a means which we must use in the appropriate manner.

[Question] Does this mean, Mr Kolle, that the PCB or the front, or both, are ready to play the government's game at the coming elections? What I mean is, are they ready to dance to the tune which the government and the bourgeois state are playing?

[Answer] We are perfectly aware that the electoral phase is part of the script prepared by the Banzer regime, but even under these conditions it is better to engage in a democratic struggle irrespective of its limitations than to keep mass participation and political parties illegal.

[Question] A specific question: There has been talk about disagreements between President Banzer and candidate Pereda. Do you think that there is a chance that Pereda may stray away from Banzer's guidelines and not follow, at least to some degree, the policy outlined by the latter?

[Answer] No way. Pereda was chosen by Banzer to succeed him. General Pereda is not a military caudillo. From the viewpoint of the armed forces he does not have any backing. Whatever disagreements there may be, they are the natural ones between a candidate and the man who appoints him.

[Question] At the same time this interview is going on the air a number of leftist personalities are meeting at the Vanidades Movie Theater. [rest of question indistinct]

[Answer] The persons who have called this meeting are obviously members of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, the Revolutionary Workers Party of Filemon Escobar, some members of the Revolutionary Party of Bolivian Workers, and some members of the FUDP leadership. The proposal of the leftist front is, in our understanding, a factional proposal which does not fulfill the needs of the revolutionary antifascist struggle which is being waged in the country. This proposal isolates the working class and condemns it to certain defeat because it eliminates the possibility of finding allies among the other sectors of society, something which will make the creation of a democratic front very difficult.

[Question] Three of the four women workers who held the hunger strike which, as we all know, changed the situation of the country are participating in this meeting. What do you have to say about this participation?

[Answer] We praise the heroic attitude of the four women workers who went on the hunger strike. [passage indistinct] Their action opened the possibility for a political opening in the country because it gave rise to a widespread mass movement which supported these women.

[Answer] I wish to reassert that any appointments will be made by the front. The front is now made up of five political parties. This does not mean that there will be no more parties joining the front. If there is any possibility of talks with Paz Estenssoro, these talks will be held between front representatives and Paz Estenssoro. At no point has the front considered accepting Paz Estenssoro's Nationalist Revolutionary Movement as a member.

[Question] Mr Kolle Cueto, we would like to discuss other political parties and other fronts. I will mention some of the other candidates and we would like to know your opinion. We would like to know, for example, what you think about Gen Juan Pereda, Gen Bernal Escalante, Mario Gutierrez and [names indistinct]?

[Answer] Gen Juan Pereda is President Banzer's candidate, forced upon the armed forces, even though he may have their secret support. He represents the continuation of the present regime.

[Question] What about General Bernal?

[Answer] General Bernal was defense minister of General Banzer's regime. From my point of view there is little difference between a defense minister and an interior minister of the same military government, or any government that [words indistinct].

[Question] How would you explain Patino Ayoroa's candidacy, which seems to have much (?support)?

[Answer] It is the result of disagreements at the very base of [passage indistinct] probably he will be the candidate for his party and the so-called leftist front.

[Question] Could you confirm the government's statement that even among the left there are many factions, many fronts, and many candidates, a situation which the government views as something which will give rise to a chaos which will hinder the electoral process. What can you say about this?

[Answer] What we have is a large number of parties organized by the government to support Juan Pereda. The parties and organizations which represent the masses and which have stable ideologies and frameworks are not breaking up. On the contrary, they are engaged in a process which tends toward unity and the organization of fronts.

[Question] Mr Kolle Cueto, now that our time is almost up, let us review some concrete facts. The PCB has been criticized for not participating in the 1967 guerrilla action led by Ernesto Che Guevara. It was also criticized for not actively participating in General Torres' regime, and finally [words indistinct] now that the Italian Communist Party is rather severely criticizing the action of the Red Brigades in Italy with reference to Aldo Moro's kidnaping. What can you say in this regard so we can get an idea of the Communist Party's position.

[Answer] The Communist Party has been faithful to its basic guidelines and ideology. There is no person or organization in the entire world that could responsibly charge the Communist Party with having hidden motives for the revolution. During Torres' administration the party acted in a politically responsible manner, supporting the process, trying to save it from severe difficulties, without knowing that the country's power structure had changed so much that essential changes could take place in Bolivian politics. From its very beginning, from the time when Lenin began to shape his ideas into concrete Marxism, the Communist Party has been condemning terrorism and the methodology of bourgeois sectors which deny the working class and its party any participation in the search for a revolutionary path.

GEISEL PREVIEWS ITAIPU-CORPUS PROPOSAL FOR ARGENTINA

PY280332Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Apr 78 p 20 PY

[Text] Brasilia--In a ministerial meeting held yesterday, President Geisel outlined the proposal Brazil will present to Argentina in early May to make the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric projects compatible. The Brazilian proposal will be framed within "reasonable limits which could be acceptable to Argentina."

Yesterday's meeting--which started at 1530 and lasted 3 hours--was attended by Minister Moraes Rego, chief of the military household (who in his capacity as secretary of the National Security Council is always following the developments of the Itaipu question), by Joao Baptista de Figueiredo (in his first action to learn about the issue, more as the future president than as the head of the National Intelligence Service--SNI) and by Ministers Goldbery do Couto e Silva, Shigeaki Ueki and Azeredo da Silveira.

At the bilateral talks which delegations from the two countries held in Brasilia last Thursday, it was agreed that Brazil will submit a proposal to Argentina. At that time, even though Brazil officially persisted on its intransigent position on the issue of the Corpus height (stating that it should be 100 meters high) and Argentina maintained a somewhat flexible position, actually there was not the slightest change in relation to the positions which the two countries have held since the latest tripartite talks held in Asuncion in March.

It has been reported that Paraguay was not informed of the agreement that Brazil will make a "final" proposal early in May. Brazil and Argentina decided to maintain their policy of keeping as much information as possible away from the press "so as not to jeopardize the talks and negotiations." This is why Itamaraty was not surprised by the ostensibly hostile remarks made in Asuncion by Argentine diplomat Osorio Arana after leaving Brasilia. Arana said that Argentina will not accept a height of 105 meters for Corpus, but this remark conveys a misleading tactic since in Brasilia he had caused the Brazilian delegates to believe otherwise.

Argentina accepts a height of 105 meters for Corpus but, in return, it agrees with "only a reasonable degree" of operational flexibility for Itaipu. Brazil will agree to the 105-meter height for Corpus but demands "full flexibility" for Itaipu. Brazil could also secure full flexibility by allowing Corpus to be "a few meters higher." The issue between the two parties now centers on the need to reconcile the height of Corpus with the flexibility of Itaipu.

The truth is that the Argentines were already expecting a "final" Brazilian proposal at the tripartite talks which are beginning today in Asuncion. This was not possible, however, because President Geisel was deeply involved in recent weeks with the gubernatorial succession, which absorbed his time completely and prevented him from presiding over a meeting like the one held yesterday.

The Brazilian proposal will include provisions for a "possible agreement" with Argentina. It will not mean a retreat in the Brazilian position but merely the first, and possibly conclusive, act of good will designed to clear the path toward an agreement. What will be presented to the Argentines is a proposal containing a narrow margin for negotiations to reduce even more the gap between the positions maintained by the two countries--in addition to the progress made through the successive negotiations--and thus bringing the figures proposed by each country closer together.

Following this proposal, it will be confirmed whether the expected meeting of the foreign ministers of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay will be held early in June in Asuncion. The confirmation of this meeting will, however, depend on the Argentine reaction to the Brazilian proposal.

Government 'Optimistic' About Negotiat ons

PY292030Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0514 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Apr--The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today stated that the Brazilian Government is still "optimistic" with respect to the trilateral negotiations on Itaipu and Corpus, and the meeting which has just ended in Asuncion "does not mean there has been an abrupt change toward a negative climate."

Luis Felope Lampreia, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, added that the Brazilian proposal for the compatibilization of the two dams, which Argentina rejected in Asuncion, was "correct, honest and thorough." It did not concern only the water head for Corpus, but also a "complex series of elements" related to the joint exploitation of the Parana River waters by Argentina, Brazil and Praguay.

"We do not want to offend anybody," the Itamaraty spokesman added. The Brazilian proposal presented in Asuncion did not have a "tactical objective."

In answer to a question he stated: "There was no change in the Brazilian position." On the contrary, we are "searching for a solution, for an understanding" in this matter.

Lampreia confirmed what was indicated in the final communique issued in Asuncion--that is, Brazil proposed a ministerial-level trilateral meeting in Brasilia. He said the Brazilian Government hopes the meeting will take place "soon."

He explained that Brazil believes "the possibilities for negotiation at the technical and diplomatic levels have been exhausted," and that the discussions should now be held at the ministerial level.

The spokesman added: "We intend to continue with the negotiations and the trilateral meeting in Asuncion ended in a perfectly cordial climate, without splits of any kind among the three countries participating in the negotiations." He insisted on emphasizing that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry wishes to adopt a moderate and conciliating stand after the apparent failure of this meeting, which had begun in a climate of optimism.

ELECTROMETALICOS TO SELL 1,000 TANK GUNS TO USSR

PY281825Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1735 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 28 Apr--Brazil will supply the Soviet Union with 1,000 90-mm guns to replace those fitted in tank turrets "now operating in the Middle East," GAZETA MERCANTIL announced today.

According to the newspaper, Jose Dinis de Souza, president of Electrometalicos Finos S.A., said that the company will manufacture the guns. The newspaper does not specify the model of tanks. The order was placed by the Soviet Union through the Brazilian company ENGESA, according to the newspaper.

The president of Electrometalicos also pointed out to GAZETA MERCANTIL that Brazil will soon be able to handle the manufacture of light armored vehicles.

Brazil has its own technology in this sector and holds an international patent for the manufacture of double armor plating. Electrometal [as received] also has a triple armor plating project.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS CAUSE DISCONTENT

PY291620Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2119 GMT 28 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Apr--A general climate of discontent, which is echoed in the press, dominates Brazil's political circles after President Ernesto Geisel's designation of the new governors in some Brazilian states.

One of the better-informed commentators of the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO wrote: "The air is filled with remonstrations, deceptions, and restlessness."

The paper adds that even though it may seem incredible, Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, the official candidate for the succession of President Geisel, could find himself in a difficult situation during the presidential election (with a broader electoral college) on 15 October.

The paper states that the MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] opposition, fed by this climate of dissatisfaction, could even launch the candidacy of a general who might defeat General Figueiredo in October.

Although they don't go into such a detailed analysis, several commentators believe that the government finds itself in a difficult situation now because of the negative reaction within the government's majority party (ARENA) [National Renewal Alliance] to the gubernatorial appointments.

Over the last 2 weeks, Planalto Palace (the presidential headquarters) has announced the names of ARENA's candidates for the indirect state governorship elections which will take place in September, and this action is virtually an official designation.

Observers believe that the selections were made by the three most influential men in the present military regime--President Geisel, General Figueiredo, and General Goldbery do Courto e Silva, chief of the president's civil cabinet.

The arbitrary nature of the selection (a result of the reforms imposed by the government last April) was not only criticized by the press and the MDB, but caused strong controversy within the government majority party.

In effect, Planalto's decisions were not unanimously supported in some states--particularly Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais.

In Sao Paulo, Planalto Palace imposed former Governor Laudo Natel, a friend of General Figueiredo, as the successor to present Governor Paulo Egydio Martins, who said the selection was a "political defeat" for him.

The city's former mayor, Paulo Maluf, decided to contest Planalto's decision and petition local ARENA delegates--who should in principle approve Natel--for the candidacy.

In Minas Gerais, the home state of ARENA Senator Magalhaes Pinto, the civilian candidate for the presidency, Planalto selected the ARENA's national president, Francelino Pereira, to succeed Aureliano Chaves, who in principle will be the next vice president.

Since he is not from that state, Pereira's appointment provoked numerous protests: one from Senator Pinto, who criticized the move on radio and television.

The discontent obviously present within ARENA is making government strategists uneasy just a few months before the presidential elections and, more importantly, the legislative branch elections to be held in November. Many predict a substantial strengthening by the opposition during these elections.

FOLHA DE SAO PAULO states today that Planalto will have to undertake a "pacification" process. Meanwhile, some observers see the imminent implementation of reforms (especially the dissolution of the ARENA and the MDB), which would change the electoral picture and avoid defeat for the government in November.

FORMER MAYOR MALUF TO DISPUTE SAO PAULO GOVERNORSHIP

PY291218Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Former Mayor [of Sao Paulo] Paulo Salim Maluf yesterday sent a letter to the ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] national president, Deputy Franceliro Pereira, in which he reiterates "his decision to dispute the appointment by the ARENA regional convention of the governorship of Sao Paulo State."

After notifying Pereira--who received him at his house--of his decision, Maluf held a press conference in which he praised future Governor Laudo Natel and admitted that if others take the initiative, he would be willing to hold talks to withdraw his candidacy.

Maluf said: Although I am determined to run, I am open to proposals, since politics entails open talks. Yet, I will not take the initiative.

Maluf will prepare today an itinerary of visits to the interior, thus initiating his political campaign.

He said: My candidacy is in keeping with the defense of the April package, which granted regional conventions the power to appoint governors.

MDB MAY NOMINATE GENERAL AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY290302Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Deputy Tancredo Neves, leader of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] in the Chamber of Deputies, today admitted that the MDB may nominate a candidate for president of the republic in the election to be held by the electoral college. In his opinion, if a military officer is willing to run in the 15 October indirect election--and he must not be a four-star general--the MDB may study the possibility of nominating him for the presidency of the republic.

The presidential press adviser, Col Rubem Ludwig, said that the MDB may nominate a candidate to run against Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo at the election to be held by the electoral college. He said that if the MDB nominated a general, this would not cause any problem to the government.

PINOCHET SAYS REGIME TO STAY IN POWER ANOTHER 8 YEARS

PA291828Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1813 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Talca, Chile, 29 Apr (EFE)--President Augusto Pinochet said here that it will be 8 years before civic institutions are reestablished, in accordance with the schedule prepared by his government for the full reestablishment of democracy and institutionality. The president spoke last night at a rally organized after he received an award from the local branch of the University of Chile, an opportunity he used to reiterate that the government must act gradually and must carefully consider every step. "This means that there will not be elections in Chile any time soon. Only the ambitious politicians want to hasten the process in order to regain power and to continue their demagoguery and petty politics." He also pointed out that although the government issued an amnesty, "this is not a sign of weakness. We did this because the government is sufficiently strong. As soon as there are any violations I will use all the force my government has."

POLICE DISCOVER COMMUNIST PARTY PRINTING OFFICE

PY291853Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Apr 78 PY

[Text] It was officially reported that the security service discovered a clandestine printing office belonging to the proscribed Communist Party. It was located on 56 Porvenir Street in the [name indistinct] neighborhood. Subversive pamphlets designed to disturb and agitate the society with regard to the 1 May holiday were being printed there. After an investigation which succeeded in determining the location of the printing office, police and security agents were able to arrest the two persons who ran it. In addition, they confiscated a large number of pamphlets and leaflets and two guns. The two persons were taken to the Third Military Court.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS PASSAGE TO REFUGEE IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PA292323Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Chilean Government has issued a safe-conduct to the soldier who has been a refugee in our Santiago embassy for the past 3 years. The announcement was made by acting Venezuelan Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Gomez Mantelini, who said that the Chilean soldier's name is Jorge (Magariaga). According to Dr Gomez, the delay in issuing the safe-conduct resulted from the Chilean Government's stand that the soldier was an army deserter. Dr Gomez said that the refugee will travel to Caracas in the next few hours.

EXPULSION OF COMMUNIST TO BE APPEALED

PY281308Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2130 GMT 27 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, 27 Apr--Cesar Godoy Urrutia, member of the Chilean Communist Party and former congressman, was expelled from the country today when he tried to return from exile in Mexico under the recent amnesty. Godoy Urrutia, 77, was a deputy and member of the Central Committee of the now-proscribed Chilean Communist Party.

Urrutia's niece, Aurora Sanchez, stated that she would file a petition of habeas corpus. She added that the former deputy had wanted to return to Chile because of poor health.

Representatives of the UN office of the high commissioner for refugees stated that they sent a telegram to Buenos Aires asking their office to take care of the exile when the airplane landed in Buenos Aires.

Aeroperu flight 603 took off from Pudahuel airport at 1345 local time (1745 GMT).

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 0225 GMT on 28 April reports that the Argentine Government authorized Cesar Godoy Urrutia to stay in Buenos Aires for 48 hours.]

ICEM LAUDS GOVERNMENT FOR HELP IN RELOCATING PRISONERS

PY262312Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Apr 78 PY

[Text] A communique issued by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Immigration [ICEM] headed by Argentine (Roberto Kosaks) states that its work [in Chile] is highly positive in view of the cooperation offered by the Chilean Government.

In the communique, (Kosaks) refers to recent measures taken by the government regarding the commutation of prison sentences to exile and ICEM involvement in relocation of persons who were favored with this commutation.

[begin Kosaks recording] This government resolution will enable 109 persons to leave Chile in the next few days; therefore, there will be 1,284 persons who were relocated abroad, among whom are 47 persons who were sentenced to life imprisonment; 634 who were charged with violating the state of siege and 73 who were expelled from Chile and were accepted by foreign countries. Therefore, the total number of prisoners who were sent abroad through the ICEM program is 1,991. [end recording]

However, the figures given by (Kosaks) will be drastically changed as a result of the Chilean Government's decision to enforce an amnesty in favor of those persons sentenced by military courts.

(Kosaks) said that ICEM achievements are due mainly to the government's understanding of ICEM objectives, without which it would have been impossible to carry out this humanitarian task which is characterized by the experience and professionalism which the entity has acquired during its 26 years of activity in Chile.

[begin (Kosaks) recording] We have relocated 18,200 persons in other countries under this program, which has benefited former prisoners, persons who were granted visas by various governments and their relatives. These persons were transferred to more than 40 countries.

ICEM is pleased to make this announcement and it is thankful for the cooperation granted by foreign governments and other international and Chilean entities without which it would have been impossible to carry out.

The ICEM task was aided by two measures enforced by Chilean authorities: the authorization to visit without restrictions the places of detention and to visit without witnesses the detainees eligible for this program, and the intervention of the government to achieve a 40-percent decrease in airline tickets and duty-free tickets for all persons who benefited from the government measure. [end recording]

The communique adds: Motivated by this same spirit and with the continued cooperation of governments and the international community, ICEM will continue to offer its services where they are required, in accordance with the organization's purpose.

LABOR MINISTRY DECLARES SCHEDULED STRIKE ILLEGAL

PA272144Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Labor Ministry today declared illegal a strike being promoted by the union of workers of the Agrarian Bank and gave the bank's management full authority to apply the sanctions provided for by law against those who place themselves outside the law. The Labor Ministry resolution was released on the eve of the staging of another strike by the union to exert pressure for the signing of the new collective contract.

The workers have been staging staggered strikes causing considerable losses to the bank. The Agrarian Bank manager today expressed confidence in the workers' good sense and warned that, if the strike is carried out tomorrow, harsh sanctions will be applied against those who participate in it.

SHIP FILLED WITH MARIJUANA, U.S. PLANE WITH FIREARMS SEIZED

PA010305Y Paris AFP in English 0311 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, Colombia, April 30 (AFP)--Colombian authorities have seized a ship filled with marijuana and an American plane with a sizable quantity of arms aboard, it was announced today.

Both were seized in the Guajira region in extreme northern Colombia, known to be a center of the international drug traffic.

They said that the plane contained a score of firearms, a substantial amount of ammunition and a large sum in dollars. The plane made an emergency landing at the airport of Riohacha, capital of Guajira; and the three crew members were arrested.

SOCIALIST CANDIDATE ACCEPTS SINGLE CANDIDACY PROPOSAL

PA270144Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Socialist presidential candidate Socorro Ramirez today withdrew from the electoral race when she accepted a proposal by writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez to unite the Colombian left. The writer's proposal is based on the withdrawal of the three leftist candidates from the June presidential elections and the holding of a plebiscite to collect 500,000 signatures for the eventual nomination of a single candidate.

In a message to Garcia Marquez, the socialist workers leader stressed that she expects a similar action from the two other candidates, Congressmen Julio Cesar Pernia and Jaime Piedrahita. Pernia is a member of the Moscow-leaning National Opposition Union and Piedrahita is the candidate of the Maoist Single Popular Front.

The Communist Party of Colombia has officially rejected the proposed plebiscite and has reiterated its support for Pernia. For their part, Piedrahita supporters have not replied to Garcia Marquez' proposal, but political observers believe that under this proposal, he will certainly become the left's candidate in the upcoming elections.

GOVERNMENT OPPOSED TO BILATERAL TALKS ON PANAMA

PY271358Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Apr 78 p 8 PY

[By special correspondent Luis Sixto Alen]

[Excerpt] Foz de Iguazu--Paraguay sees no reason for Brazil and Argentina to hold bilateral meetings on the question of Corpus and Itaipu without Paraguayan participation, it was learned here after talks between Paraguayans and Brazilians preceding the fourth trilateral meeting which is scheduled to begin tomorrow in Asuncion.

Paraguay made known its concern over those bilateral meetings to Argentine and Brazilian delegates.

Sources in the Paraguayan delegation to the fourth trilateral meeting said that it will be impossible to arrive at solutions acceptable to all parties on utilization of the Parana River's hydroelectric potential without Paraguay's participation in its capacity as partner in both Itaipu and Corpus.

Through sources close to the Paraguayan delegation it was learned that no definite solution would be reached at the fourth trilateral meeting.

Senator Carlos A. Saldivar, head of the Paraguayan delegation to the trilateral meeting, told journalists last night during a brief press conference held after the dinner marking the fifth anniversary of the Itaipu treaty: "I do not believe that the time for solutions has arrived. Argentina and Brazil have their own solutions, but their solutions must accommodate Paraguay's interests and not the other way around."

Senator Saldivar indicated that he has precise instructions from the Paraguayan Government to that effect. He also said that Paraguay will not let Corpus ruin the hydroelectric potential of its interior Nacunday and Monday rivers and flood land which must be preserved.

Senator Saldivar added: "Paraguay holds advantages in the negotiations." Asked whether our country has picked a particular height for Corpus, Saldivar replied that Paraguay has not and that the point will be studied further, staying within the 95- and 125-meter limits established by the feasibility study.

ITAIPU HYDROELECTRIC PLANT TO BEGIN WITH 50-CYCLE TURBINES

PY271547Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Apr 78 p 9 PY

[Excerpt] Foz do Iguazu--The first turbines to operate at the Itaipu binational hydroelectric plant will generate 50 cycles and will be installed on the right bank of the Parana River. This decision was made by the Itaipu Binational Executive Board, accepting a proposal presented by Gen Jose Costa Cavalcanti, Itaipu's general director, and John Reginald Cotrim, Itaipu technical director.

Both officials suggested that priority attention be given to the assembly and operations stages of the 50-cycle turbines on the right bank of the Parana River. The turbines will be on Paraguayan territory and will produce the energy used by the Paraguayan electric system.

OAPEC LEADER VISITS; DISCUSSES PRICES, DOLLAR DROP

PA290335Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1608 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 28 Apr (AFP)--'Ali Ahmad al-'Attiqah, secretary general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), said here today that the drop in the value of the dollar causes the oil countries to lose about $12 billion annually. According to Al-'Attiqah, such a situation is "highly unsatisfactory" for the oil countries. He added that it is necessary to do something--other than freeze prices--in order to remedy this decline in prices.

Al-'Attiqah strongly rejected the freezing of prices as a solution, since in practice the drop in the value of the dollar has also made the value of crude oil decline. "What was frozen is now being sold at a lower price," Al-'Attiqah said, referring to the decision to freeze prices made at the last OPEC ministerial meeting held on the outskirts of Caracas in December.

According to him, in order to stabilize the prices of hydrocarbons, one has to restore the purchasing power not only of the dollar but of other important currencies as well.

He explained that as a result of the losses caused by the drop in the value of the dollar, several oil countries have had to request international loans to finance their economic development. He added that it is therefore clear that the oil-exporting countries' revenues have diminished as a result of the decline in the buying power of the dollar, which is the currency in which crude oil transactions are conducted.

Al-'Attiqah then said that in 1973 the oil countries and the transnational companies had agreed on a formula guaranteeing compensation to the former for the drop in the value of the dollar. "If nothing else, that formula should be reimplemented now to compensate for the decline in the value of the dollar on international markets," the OAPEC secretary general stressed. According to him, the oil countries should devise some formula to compensate for the decline.

According to local observers, OPEC will meet next month to discuss oil prices and the reduction in the volume of exports. OAPEC comprises 7 of OPEC's 13 members.

Venezuelan Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez had earlier denied that he and the visiting OAPEC delegation had discussed prices since the issue does not fall within the purview of this organization but that of OPEC.

Al-'Attiqah also explained that he was visiting Venezuela at Hernandez' special invitation to discuss cooperation not in connection with prices but in the area of technology, transport, the recovery of crude oils, markets, refining, human resources, the exchange of information and other such topics.

Regarding this, he said that in the future Venezuela's Technological Institute of Petroleum may become an important center for the exchange of technology between this country and OAPEC members, as it represents local technological sources rather than that made available by the transnational companies.

During its stay here, which concluded today, the OAPEC delegation visited various important economic, hydroelectric and siderological centers and met with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Minister Hernandez.

President Meets OAPEC Leader

PA271608Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Expanded technical cooperation among petroleum-exporting countries was the key topic of talks between Venezuelan chief of state Carlos Andres Perez and OAPEC Secretary General 'Ali Ahmad al-'Attiquah. At the end of the meeting, Al-'Attiqah commented: We exchanged views on the possibilities for cooperation in the research, information and training fields among OPEC member countries in general and among Arab countries and Venezuela in particular.

ANDRES PEREZ CRITICIZES OPEC PRICING POLICY

PA010311Y Paris AFP in English 0210 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, April 30 (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today accused major oil producing nations of "subsidizing an exaggerated standard of living in industrialized nations at the price of misery in the developing countries."

President Perez' statement came only a few days before the next meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) scheduled for May 6 in Saudi Arabia. Venezuela has consistently favored higher oil prices.

Venezuelan Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez left for Saudi Arabia yesterday to prepare for the OPEC meeting, which he will chair.

He said before leaving that OPEC must study ways to deal with the depreciation of the U.S. dollar against many other currencies, as well as with excess supplies of crude oil on certain markets.

PRC JOURNALISTS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ

PA291644Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Text] An important delegation of journalists from the People's Republic of China will be present at the Labor Day celebrations to take place in Caracas on 1 May.

The Chinese delegation is composed of the deputy director general of the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY and five other journalists.

Chief of state Carlos Andres Perez will receive the Chinese delegation on Tuesday. The Chinese will also meet with the ministers of foreign affairs and information and tourism and with the board of directors of the journalists association.

The Chinese journalists will take part in many activities. Their agenda includes their participation in the 1 May rally called by the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela and visits to several Caracas newspaper offices and to some areas in the country's interior.

GOVERNMENT PLEASED WITH USSR DECISION TO SIGN TREATY

PA281230Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2132 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 27 Apr (AFP)--The Mexican Government was very pleased with the decision of the Soviet Union, announced by President Leonid Brezhnev, to sign the treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America. Mexico is one of the chief promoters of the principles set forth in the Treaty of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Arms in Latin America, which has its headquarters in Mexico City. The treaty is better known as the "Tlaltelolco treaty." The Foreign Ministry said that Mexico rejoices over the fact that Latin America is becoming increasingly free of this threat.

PHONE WORKERS STAGE NATIONAL STRIKE

PA271203Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Apr (EFE)--Mexico was left without phone communications today as a result of a national phone workers' strike. The strike began shortly after noon when negotiations between the phone company and the phone workers' union over the signing of a document revising the collective labor contract failed.

The authorities' announcement that the problem had been solved was denied by phone workers' leader Francisco Hernandez Juarez.

The workers have announced a march through the city's streets this afternoon to demand a solution to their problems.

The strike was first announced several weeks ago to demand wage increases and other benefits for the 24,000 workers of the Telephone Company of Mexico, which is partially controlled by the government.

The negotiations collapsed when union representatives refused to accept the company's offer of a 12-percent wage increase, which did not meet the workers' demand for an 18-percent increase. The company's counterproposal is in keeping with the ceiling set on management wage offers this year.

The denial of a disagreement between labor and management at the time the strike was announced created evident confusion among the phone workers. Nonetheless, they announced that they would not withdraw their red and black strike flags until leader Hernandez Juarez had explained to them the terms of the agreement.

"We have not signed any agreement," Hernandez Juarez reported later. Hernandez is affiliated with the government union [central oficialista] but he is considered to have an independent outlook.

After the strike was announced, government representatives were sent to the phone company's offices to prevent the breakdown of services. According to the law, the government can intervene any public service threatened with a strike. But as of 1500 (2100 GMT), the government's intervention had not yet taken place. [as received]

TORRIJOS SPEAKS AT OIL TERMINAL DEDICATION

PA3000211Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1637 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos at dedication of Petro-terminal Corporation in Puerto Armuelles, Chiriqui Province--live]

[Text] Distinguished foreign visitors, comrades all: The truth of the matter is that, basically speaking, this project is much greater in magnitude than some may think. Its success is due solely to Fabian Velarde, one of our great advisers whom we unfortunately lost when we had the greatest need for his presence. This loss was so great that we still have not been able to replace him.

Panama is a very difficult country to negotiate with. We are strict and proper in our negotiations. But when we reach an agreement we fulfill our part and facilitate all the support that the negotiating partner requires. Therefore, you can be sure that what we agreed on in that commitment, in which the National Financial Corporation [COFINA], as a state entity, has a 25-percent interest, will be fulfilled as specified in the contract.

Now that the owners of the corporation are present, including the manager of COFINA, it is necessary that we look beyond the large economic picture. We must not neglect the social conditions of the men who will work here permanently. Careful consideration must be given to their housing requirements to avoid what has occurred with other companies established around here, which have not yet solved the housing problem. When we think about the worker, we must remember that he is human, that he requires schools, houses, recreation and good treatment.

The community asks itself, and this must also be taken into consideration, whether all measures have been adopted to prevent pollution. It is true that we know such measures have been adopted at our level, but that is not enough. There must be a man or an office here to deal with all the problems which the community may encounter in this project.

This is a politically wise community which has the great strength of dignity. But it is a community which respects and supports the projects in proportion to the human quality which these entail. It is a community which requires human treatment more than material conquests which, when the chips are down and a decision must be made between material conquests or respect for human dignity, leans toward the latter. I suggest that you leave someone here permanently, establish a basis, and begin to work with him so that the level of conscientiousness and understanding of the inhabitants of the region will grow in step with or at the same speed as the construction.

Later there are a few questions which I want answered. We had forecast that 400,000 barrels would be transhipped by 1984. I believe we are presently transshipping 650,000 barrels. We had forecast a level of participation on the basis of 400,000 barrels. I would like to see the figures to know what the state's economic benefits are because part of these benefits should be distributed directly to the community, to see whether the reference points of the study which justified the installation of this port have changed, whether they have in fact changed and whether they have favorable or unfavorable repercussions on the country. All these are questions which should be supplied to the community by companies established here because this region is very politicized and has excellent political leaders. Thank you. [applause]

INFORMATION OFFICE ANNOUNCES 16 JUNE CARTER VISIT

PA281802Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1742 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 28 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--U.S. President Jimmy Carter will visit Panama on 16 and 17 June, the information advisory office of the chief of government announced here today.

With Torrijos, Carter will sign "the protocol which confirms the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Panama Canal treaties."

The official communique which announced Carter's acceptance of the invitation extended by Torrijos explains that an amendment passed by the U.S. Senate established 21 March 1979 as the date on which the treaties will enter into effect unless the U.S. Congress passes "implementation and execution legislation" for the treaties before that date.

Details of the itinerary and agenda of the U.S. President are being studied by both governments. It was said originally that Carter would come to Panama on 12 May and Torrijos himself added that Carter would stay 48 hours and would be accompanied by the senators who voted in favor of the treaties submitted for ratification in recent weeks.

Panama ratified the new canal treaties in the plebiscite held here on 23 October last year. Two out of every three Panamanians voted in the affirmative in the plebiscite.

Preparations Begin for Carter Visit

PA300030Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1720 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] Official preparations for the visit of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who will come to exchange the canal treaty ratification notes with Chief of Government Omar Torrijos, will begin next Tuesday.

The U.S. Embassy in Panama has already contacted the Holiday Inn to reserve accommodations for President Carter and his party. The hotel is located on Punta Paitilla on the Gulf of Panama.

It has already been reported in Panama and Washington that the Torrijos-Carter meeting might be attended by other Latin American presidents such as Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen of Colombia and Rodrigo Carazo Odio of Costa Rica. Rodrigo Carazo said that he does not intend to travel during his term, but it is possible that after his swearing-in ceremony on 8 May, because of the importance of this historical event, he might come to Panama.

CABALLERO COMMENTARY ASSESSES LEADERSHIP OF TORRIJOS

PA271944Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 26 Apr 78 PA

["Fijando el Rumbo" commentary by Danilo Caballero: "The Leader's Personality and Its Effect on the Process"]

[Text] The leader who truly has the qualifications to become the conductor of his people will invariable leave his personal mark on a great number of his activities.

The role of the leader's personality in the history of mankind has been the subject of careful study by experts on the subject. To us, however, the issue has a more specific nature.

Now, at the end of a phase in our struggle for liberation, Omar's personality is being strongly felt in the life of our people. It is not the old concept of bossism, which the chief of our revolution has always shunned, but the significance of the actions of a man whose personality is closely related to our people's psychology.

This can be seen in any of the most remote peasant settlements throughout the entire national territory. Omar's image and personality leave the indelible mark of a leader concerned about the fate of his people. In such peasant settlements we can confirm, without belittling the efforts of the experts on this subject, how a statement from Omar or a timely observation from him has served to correct mistakes, to determine short- and long-term tasks. We also find that the peasant identifies with the name and actions of Omar Torrijos the land recovered after long struggles, the assurance of his daily subsistence, the introduction of necessary technology to ease his work and the school--as a guarantee for the future--which his children will attend.

None of this is accidental. It corresponds to the reality and direction Omar has given the October process since 1969 and which gained greater force and effectiveness in 1972 with the institutionalization of the revolution. At that time we arrived at popular power, the idea and creation of Omar, when many considered it difficult to erase from our people's political geography the image of the deputies--smelling of foreign colognes--and to replace them with genuinely popular representatives, basically humble men whose credentials qualify them to decide on the fate of the nation through their own poverty, which made them sensitive to the people's needs.

Although popular power still has some weaknesses the chief of government must be satisfied because the massive participation of the people in this preelectoral phase is showing the extent to which the system of direct and popular representation has already been recognized as the realization of our aspirations.

That personal mark is also evident on many of the big infrastructure projects carried out by the revolution. Some of them, such as the state hydroelectric plants and sugar mills, at first appeared to be somewhat quixotic dreams because they implied clashes with age-old interests. Today, it is realized that those projects will shorten the distance of our economic liberation.

Whoever takes the time to do some research will find Omar's mark: his flexibility concerning the methods used and his positive stubbornness to start immediately and without delay any project that would benefit the people.

We do not intend to exhaust the number of examples we could offer but we want to speak of something current which affects every Panamanian family: We have our factories and printing shops working full time so that next year every child and student in the country may have uniforms and textbooks, one of the most dire needs of the people. We remember that when the chief of government started to draft this plan many persons considered it impossible because it again implied clashes with those who sell uniforms and books as luxury [as heard] items. That stubbornness to win, that faith of Omar whereby everything can be done if tackled with realism and determination, again became evident.

Finally, it suffices to view the course of the canal negotiations during the last 9 years which culminated with the signing and later the bilateral approval of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Never before has a Panamanian ruler been subjected to greater external and internal pressures. Never before has a Panamanian ruler been engaged in a worldwide crusade in search of solidarity, visiting the poverty-stricken nations as well as those that live in opulence.

Here is an example of that personal mark to which we refer: Every time that he visited the rulers of industrialized nations, Omar started the interview by announcing that he was not asking for anything but that, on the contrary, he was offering the Swedish, Finnish or German rulers a guarantee concerning the passage of their vessels through the canal, an engineering masterpiece which could be threatened if the United States should adopt colonialist positions.

The final outcome we all know. What we know very little about, and perhaps it will never be fully known, is the daily, patient and constant effort carried out by Omar as the one responsible for the negotiations in an effort not to lose the margin of maneuverability before the United States, to avoid being forced on the defensive in the course of the negotiations and to reject provocations at a time when the fate of our country was at stake. The victory obtained with the ratification of treaties that set a fixed date for the disappearance of colonialism in Panama was peaceful and negotiated, but the victory faced moments of great tension in which Omar, more than anyone else, had on his shoulders the responsibility of giving the proper answer, or making the right move in the face of the opponent's action.

On all these activities is the mark of the leader, in the inclusion of new faces in the negotiating group as well as in the exclusion of others, very few in fact, who never understood that Omar's style of work is based on collective participation and not on the old-fashioned style of a prima donna. With his known honesty, Omar himself said that he does not claim authorship rights, thinking of those who preceded him and perhaps even more of those who died earlier in order to set the nation free. Even in this, in that simple modesty, we again find the mark of his great personality as a leader who is fully aware that man wins a place in history only through his actions and deeds. And Omar has entered into history with a firm step because he is accompanied by his people.

LAW SCHOOL BOARD SAYS NEW PLEBISCITE IS OBLIGATORY

PA281920Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The board of the School of Law and Political Science of the University of Panama has resolved to point out that it is constitutionally obligatory to hold a new plebiscite for ratification by Panama of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The board, which is the highest academic and administrative authority of the School of Law and Political Science, has also decided to recommend that the date established for the new plebiscite not be peremptory so that the Panamanian people may have the time required to discuss a matter of such great importance for the country.

The board adopted this resolution on the evening of Thursday, 27 April. The board believes that the amendments, reservations, understandings, conditions and other reforms introduced by the U.S. Senate to the original treaties make the calling of a new plebiscite a constitutional demand.

The seventh introductory clause of the board's document states that, given the basically legal nature of the problem and its historic significance, the board considers that it has the obligation to speak out on this matter.

On 18 April, minutes after the U.S. Senate ratified the treaties, Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos said that a new plebiscite was not necessary. Panama ratified the Torrijos-Carter treaties in the 23 October 1977 national plebiscite when two out of three Panamanians said yes to the treaties. However, Panama's political opposition is now arguing that the yes of 23 October is no longer valid because the essence of the treaties was changed by the U.S. Senate when it incorporated amendments, reservations and understandings into the treates.

STUDENT FEDERATION LEADER ADDRESSES FEP MEEING

PA3014O5Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Mario Panther, secretary general of the Federation of Panamanian Students, at meeting of Federal Executive Council and regional representatives of Federation of Panamanian Students held at auditorium of University of Panama in Panama City--live]

[Excerpts] Comrade Rector of the University of Panama Emilio Chavez, members of the Federal Executive Council of the always glorious and fighting Federation of Panamanian Students [FEP], student leaders from throughout the country, militant comrades: It is understandable that the Panamanian people are wondering why the Federal Executive Council has urgently called the student movement to a meeting at this time. It is a fair question. The people of Panama deserve an answer. We have summoned student leaders from all parts of the country to analyze the national situation at this critical time for the country's future and to develop the thesis approved during the last FEP congress in September.

During the 10th congress our student movement analyzed the Torrijos-Carter treaties and decided to fully support their ratification by our people and to consider them an important step forward in the national liberation struggle. Our people, understanding the great importance of these treaties and fully aware that they did not fulfill all the Panamanian aspirations, decided to ratify them last 23 October.

It was clear to our people that the struggle was not over but that, according to our commitment with the United States, we were in a better position to continue our national liberation struggle. In turn, the United States had to ratify the Torrijos-Carter treaties and our people, through the various information media, saw the way in which the U.S. Senate hurled diatribes, insults and slanderous remarks against the Panamanian process, its patriotism and General Torrijos; our people saw the way in which some senators tried to offend our national dignity; and our people saw their attempts to distort the conquests included in the treaties. None of this should have surprised us.

It is precisely here that the very essence of imperialism lies. We must never forget that imperialism has never abided by treaties it has signed. Historically, it has been amply shown that it makes a mockery of its international commitments. Let us recall the treaty with Vietnam signed by the United States in Geneva. It lies there in the most shameful neglect. Our people must clearly understand that they must defend each advance, that imperialism will try to deprive us of our conquests, that it has allies in Panama and it relies on the traitorous oligarchy. This is why it is urgent that we develop our people's political organization so that they can defend, inch by inch, each of these conquests.

At this time we must remember who carried the greatest burden in the struggle to rid our nation of a foreign presence, who actually waged the liberation struggle and who strived the most to attain the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

It is regrettable that a sector of our information media has echoed the U.S. press and presented the treaties as a personal achievement of President Carter. It is regrettable that these sectors see the attainment of the treaties as the result of Carter's equanimity, goodness and good sense of balance. But it is a thousand times more regrettable that these same sectors have forgotten that the Panamanian people and patriotic forces, with international solidarity, compelled imperialism to sit at the negotiating table and reach an agreement with Panama. It is a thousand times more regrettable that these sectors have forgotten that these treaties are the result of the blood shed by Ascanio Arosemena and so many of our martyrs. These treaties have cost years of hunger and misery and it is only fair to recognize that these treaties are a victory of our people, of their fighters, of the blood of their martyrs and of all the patriotic military forces commanded by General Torrijos. [applause]

We do not deny that President Carter is a realistic person, but let us make it clear that we are not confronting Carter. If this were the case, then our struggle would be easier and simpler. We are confronting U.S. imperialism and the confrontation with imperialism has cost our people large amounts of blood and sacrifices. Therefore, we must not forget the type of victory we have obtained. It was not obtained through an armed struggle; it was produced through negotiations. What has been agreed upon is in writing and we must make it a reality. This will not be easy because imperialism is deceitful and because it refuses to leave the Canal Zone and to turn the interoceanic waterway over to the people. This is why we must have a revolutionary vigilance of the masses. This is the only way in which we can guarantee that what has been agreed upon will be strictly complied with. This is why the FEP has not lowered its flag. All our historic fighting slogans are being maintained. This is why our slogan [words indistinct] of our 10th national congress is still in force. The struggle against imperialism and its local allies will be long and continuous.

If in our country there are hundreds of hungry children and if there are thousands of Panamanians who cannot read or write, if in our society we still have too many Panamanian families without a roof over their heads, without adequate housing, without the minimum health conditions, this means that the military must not forget the commitment made to our people. Just as they were ready to march with the youth commandos to carry out Plan H [as heard] if ratification failed, they must be ready now to declare war, to carry out Plan H against hunger and misery, against unemployment, against illiteracy, against the lack of comfortable housing for the popular classes, against the conditions which deteriorate the health of our people.

The time has come to place education within everyone's reach. The time has come to give our people the right to enjoy art, culture, sports and all means of peaceful entertainment. Only in this way can we talk about a liberation struggle. This is why we reassert our demand that all the benefits from the treaty be used to meet our people's needs. This is why we demand to know what programs are being implemented for the use of the Canal Zone. Our people have the right to know and decide.

We have also heard that study commissions have been appointed for the transition period, for the period in which the zone and its installations will pass to Panama. We have heard many names, yet so far we have not heard the name of a single workers, peasant or student. We have not heard a single name from the popular movement and we want to know why. [applause]

The time has come for our people to know for certain what there is in the Canal Zone. Let us remember that because of pressures from this government, [words indistinct] yet so far the Americans have not turned over the plans for said base.

In another aspect of the domestic situation, if we can use the treaties to place us in a better position in our struggle against imperialism, then our task will be to develop a decolonization program. And if our urgent task is to meet the people's demands, then the FEP rejects the idea that we need a second plebiscite. In Panama we all know that those who are demanding a second plebiscite are the same ones that have opposed the treaties for political reasons. We all know that they want a second plebiscite so they can continue plotting against the process and its patriotic representatives--the armed forces commanded by General Torrijos. These are the same ones who want the people to postpone the satisfaction of their needs and to go from plebiscite to plebiscite, because they really do not care about the recovery of our national economy.

The FEP cannot conceal its disapproval with the unrestricted return of the political exiles. The FEP has always been in favor of allowing all the anti-imperialist exiles to return to the country. Their return will mean that [words indistinct] and with deep resentments. If an exile returns in order to participate in the task of national reconstruction, we will not oppose it. But we shall never allow their return if it is to serve as a means of plotting conspiracies against the liberation process; we shall never allow their return if it serves to promote a return to the past.

We must make it clear that under no circumstances shall we allow the return of the traitorous officers who in connivance with the CIA tried to overthrow this government. These officers will not return.

The FEP will also struggle to attain an honest and untarnished electoral process. The great tasks which should be undertaken in this new phase will have to be confronted with a representative assembly of a higher quality than the present one. The new assembly, with greater powers, should be made up of the best elements of our society. The new assembly should be ready for the struggle and should effectively participate in the national liberation struggle. This is why we are telling the people that we are watching over the electoral process throughout the nation. We must say that the FEP will oppose any of the practices used during past elections. We must say that the FEP is vigilant concerning the way in which the Electoral Tribunal will solve a series of electoral problems. These problems are being repeated in too many communities. We warn the people that this election must be untarnished.

The first thing we must do is to clean house. A house is cleaned when something is dirty, and within the government there are dishonest officials. We must eliminate these officials. [applause] We must fight against opulence in the state's machinery, against robbery and dishonesty, and against treasonous acts detrimental to the interests of our people. If we are going to unite we must eliminate these negative aspects in the state's machinery and replace them with new values, in accordance with the great tasks of this new phase and the needs of the popular masses. This is why we say that the program for the national unity of the forces involved in the revolutionary process must guarantee that the Canal Zone, the waterway and the benefits derived from it serve our people. Let us have a program of economic change to attain economic independence and the solution to the people's problems.

Let us strengthen the process, thereby strengthening the popular power, and eliminate corrupt officials from the government. Let us develop a political organization among our people. Let us strengthen international relations with all progressive forces and peoples of the world. Let us fulfill the needs of our people and their right to education, art, culture and healthy entertainment. In order to fulfill these goals we call on the student movement to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1968 events. Let us have the largest demonstration we have ever had in support of the same principles for which Manuel Araúz fought, for the defense of the revolutionary process and for the revolutionary dignity of the patriotic forces. The FEP is on the march and no one and nothing can stop it. [applause]

LAW SCHOOL DEAN SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY FORUM

PA291515Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Cesar A. Quintero, dean of the school of law of the University of Panama, at a forum held in school of architecture of the University of Panama sponsored by Coordinating Committee of Independent University Movement and attended by opposition leaders, university students and professors, and former exiles--live]

[Excerpts] Propagandists for the 1977 Panama Canal treaties are saying that the people are tired of hearing about the treaties and that the Panamanian people have resigned themselves to this defeat--there is no other word to describe it; they are saying that the people do not want to hear more about this and that they are even tired of hearing about something which is a fait accompli. However, those same advocates of the treaties continue to speak on television, which is widely viewed, trying to justify what cannot be justified. They are also trying to say that the treaties and amendments do provide for intervention, but then there is the OAS Charter. [laughter] Yes sir, there is the OAS Charter. [applause] Because of the OAS Charter, there is not going to be any intervention. [applause] Gentlemen, that blessed Charter of the OAS--that organization that has no prestige, that corrupted organization [applause]--they tried to revive that organization by bringing its members to Washington on that day of the tragic signing, [applause] on that day of 7 September. [applause, cheers] Now, that organization is just being trampled upon. Some have called that organization the ministry of colonies of the United States. Is that the body which is going to protect us from an intervention? No one dares to deny that intervention is clearly stated in the treaties and all of its additions and reforms, whether these are called amendments, reservations, understandings, conditions or what have you. [applause]

The promoters of the treaties privately admit that these treaties involve certain limitations on sovereignty and that there is no real neutrality. They admit this privately but to the ears of the merchants and others who always measure everything by the yardstick of money they say that the treaties will bring great economic advantages. This myth was destroyed in an earlier speech by distinguished economist Dr Gorroceaga. The treaties do not signify any economic advantages. It is said that the annuity has been increased. That is true. It has been increased to a set sum of $10 million. And perhaps due to the percentage of the tolls, this could reach in the best circumstances--and this is the estimate of serious U.S. economists--$60 million annually. But they do not mention the fact that Panama is going to have a number of much greater expenses--the famous joint defense, the combined military board with generals and other officers that Panama will have to appoint. Panama will have to pay for this. [applause]

Therefore, there are no economic advantages. To this they argue that the treaties will create great confidence, capital will be brought in and domestic investment will be promoted and reactivated. There might be some foreign investment but it will not depend on the treaties. It will be due to a certain amount of peace and calm and to a certain degree of submission which, according to some people, the approval of the treaties implies.

We have previously said that these treaties legalize the 21 military bases in Panama. They are legalized in exchange for nothing. It has been said that I have forgotten the factor of dignity and that I am only thinking in terms of dollars.

Let us talk about dignity. In the past, when I and many of those present here--Dr Carlos Ivan Zuniga and Hugo Victor, among others--spoke about dignity, integrity and sovereignty, we were told that we were visionaries. We were asked: Who eats sovereignty, neutrality and dignity? Now we are criticized for stressing the economic aspect rather than dignity. We are stressing it to show that those treaties do not mean an increase of sovereignty or real jurisdiction. In fact, jurisdiction is very limited. The treaties legalize a military adviser for the Foreign Ministry. If that is dignity then we are speaking in different languages.

Since the amendments or whatever you want to call them appeared many of us have said that those amendments could only be legalized through a plebiscite. We said that according to our constitutional law those unilateral additions by the U.S. Senate to the already concluded treaties could not be legalized except through a plebiscite. We have been maintaining this since the beginning.

Now there is already talk about a ceremony here for the exchange of the ratification instruments to which President Carter has been invited. We will continue to maintain our view that these treaties--harmful to national dignity, sovereignty, integrity and independence and not beneficial to our economy--are antijuridical.

Thus, gentlemen, that is the reality. Our viewpoint is that those treaties have not brought us dignity, integrity, independence or freedom. This is a sad situation. Nevertheless, we are faced with a threat. What is the threat? The visit of Mr Carter. Why do I consider it a threat? Because, under these circumstances, the visit of President Carter to Panama to solemnly ratify, in a ceremony for the exchange of instruments, these treaties which are so harmful to Panama and imposed by violating international law and Panama's constitutional law is in my opinion an intolerable (?insult). Therefore, I will conclude by asking everyone to struggle, and let us ask President Carter not come to this country to humiliate us. [applause]

GENERAL COUNCIL OF STATE MEETING HELD 28 APRIL

PA281642Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian General Council of State meeting, which was scheduled to be held tomorrow, Friday, was suddenly held this afternoon at 1500 at the presidency. Although there were some indications that there would be changes in high government posts, this afternoon's General Council of State meeting did not discuss the issue. High government officials studied recent developments related to the treaties' ratification, the return of the exiles, the political opening and the elections for corregimiento representatives.

BRIEFS

SUGAR MILL PRODUCTION FIGURES--According to officials at state-owned La Victoria sugar mill, 502,416 tons of sugarcane were processed at the mill during 213 days of harvest. During that period, the total production of brown sugar and molasses--both of which were exported to the United States--amounted to 43,677 tons and 3,562,393 gallons, respectively. At present, the mill has 1,000 canecutters working in the fields, where 250,000 tons of sugarcane still remain to be cut. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 25 Apr 78 PA]

RICE EXPORTS--The acting director of the Agricultural and Livestock Marketing Institute (IMA), Federico Ardila, reported the export of 308,306 quintals of processed rice to the Persian Gulf for the amount of $6 million. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA]

COSTA RICA

SECURITY MINISTER COMMENTS ON FISHING VESSELS ISSUE

PA300004Y San Jose Radio Feloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Security Minister Mario Charpentier said this morning that he is of the opinion that foreign fishing vessels in national waters must by captured. I do not think, Charpentier said, that we should allow unrestricted fishing in our waters.

The security minister said that there is a regulation governing the granting of permits to member countries of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Agreement. He denied any knowledge of reports on the capture of tuna fishing vessels within our 200-mile territorial sea starting next Monday.

I hope that the tuna problem will be solved. It seems to me that we have done our duty in the courts of justice and we shall continue to do so. I hope that the tuna problem is solved as soon as possible so we can exert our rights over our territorial seas, Charpentier said when questioned about foreign tuna ships in our national waters.

EXPLANATORY NOTE ISSUED ON NICARAGUA SANDINISTS

PA300125Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry has presented an explanatory note to the Nicaraguan ambassador in Costa Rica with reference to statements made by Plutarco Hernandez, a Sandinist leader imprisoned in the central penitentiary. Foreign Minister Facio said that the note was addressed to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry. Hernandez said recently that the Costa Rican Government would never allow Sandinist bases or training on Costa Rican soil.

The Foreign Ministry note rejects the allegations that there are bases on the nation's territory. The government respects the border and the bilateral treaties signed between the two nations as well as Nicaraguan sovereignty.

The note sent today by the Foreign Ministry to the Nicaraguan Government says that the National Guard cannot prevent guerrilla movement along the border. Facio said that the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican national guard forces cannot control the entry of illegal aliens through our borders. We are unable to do it, the Foreign Ministry said.

The note was sent yesterday afternoon to Ambassador Juan Bautista Lacayo, dean of the diplomatic corps in Costa Rica and representative of the Nicaraguan Government.

The Nicaraguan National Guard was mobilized along the border with Costa Rica. Reports from Managua say that the Somoza regime had moved troops to the border with Costa Rica in order to fight the guerrilla groups. Persistent rumors in Managua report a new Sandinist attack on the National Guard post in San Carlos. However, the report has been officially denied. A government statement subsequently confirmed the report of troop deployments along the southern border but said they were merely for maneuvers and not fighting. According to the Somoza regime, the deployment of troops along the southern border has been merely to train infantry school students in mountain warfare and antiguerrilla training, but they did not come to fight.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Government officially denied any clashes with Sandinist guerrillas. It said that the border with Costa Rica was completely calm.

EL SALVADOR

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ON BORDER TALKS, ARMS PURCHASES

PA290148Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, the new Salvadoran foreign minister, said today that talks with Honduras will continue on course and that the change in the Foreign Ministry will not affect the progress of negotiations. The new official, who will assume his duties on Monday, spoke shortly after being sworn in this afternoon by Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero. Regarding the talks with the neighboring nation, he said he considered that much progress has been made and that he has hopes that the negotiations would soon end on a happy note.

Rodriguez Porth said that the problem with Honduras has been known to him for many years. "I have been working on it since the time of Col Arturo Armando Molina's administration and will continue to do so now with General Romero," he added. The newly sworn in foreign minister pointed out that at present he did not know if he would be in Lima, Peru, on 3 May for the handing over of a joint document that will be signed by the representatives of Honduras and El Salvador. He emphasized that there is peace with Honduras for the moment and that all that is needed is the conclusion of a treaty that will put an end to the differences that still exist.

Regarding the nation's image abroad, he said that his policy will consist of increasing and deepening El Salvador's relations with all the sister nations, not only those of Central America but all those with which it has political, economic and commercial ties. "Also, our missions abroad must promote the work of improving the nation's image. I am not going to blaze any new trails in this area, but I will continue the work that has already begun," the new minister stated.

Rodriguez Porth is a lawyer. In 1962 he was a candidate for the vice presidency of El Salvador for the Salvadoran Popular Party, a rightist opposition group.

Honduran Arms Purchases

PA300115Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2118 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Apr (LATIN)--The new Salvadoran foreign minister, Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, in a telephone conversation told our reporter that the purchase of British military equipment by Honduras will not hinder the peace talks with El Salvador. He said, "Honduras is perfectly free to improve its armed forces. That is why I say that there is no reason that we cannot reach excellent results through the mediation agreement." He said, "I maintain very friendly relations with several Honduran officials and, as a Salvadoran official, I believe that the mediation agreement is the first step taken toward a happy ending."

FPL CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMB EXPLOSIONS

PA282001Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Our roving correspondent has reported that in a communique sent to the news media the Popular Liberation Front [FPL] has claimed responsibility for the detonation of two incendiary bombs in the home of the legal representative of the Inca textile company in the city of Santa Ana. The FPL charged that the legal representative has an antilabor attitude and that, because of this, it placed the bombs, which fortunately did not cause any personal injury or property damage.

Inca's legal representative is Manuel de Jesus Herrera Segovia and its manager is Oscar Roberto Matamoros. The FPL charges Matamoros with unjustly firing workers and with several other irregular actions committed against workers.

FAPU MEMBERS OCCUPY RED CROSS OFFICES

PA281932Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1545 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Members of the leftist United Popular Action Front [FAPU] today occupied the Salvadoran Red Cross offices in downtown San Salvador. Up to this moment, the 15 FAPU members who took over the Red Cross offices have not revealed the reasons behind their action.

The Red Cross supreme council met this morning with leaders of the leftist group, but the subject of their discussions has not been revealed.

Meanwhile, the national police today charged a member of this clandestine group with killing two policemen and wounding another in an incident which occurred yesterday at a bus terminal in eastern San Salvador.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONGRATULATES PANAMA ON TREATIES

PA292230Y Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 20 Apr 78 p 16 PA

[Guatemalan Foreign Ministry 19 April message to Panamanian Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Your Excellency Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla, Panamanian foreign affairs minister.

I refer to a communique released by your illustrious government on this date informing the Panamanian nation about a reservation which the U.S. Senate approved in regard to the Panama Canal treaty and which defines the extent and powers which the U.S. Government will have in respect to that treaty.

I am especially pleased to send you my warmest congratulations on this achievement by Panamanian diplomacy, which confirms the legal equality of states, their sovereignty, integrity and independence. It definitely shows that negotiated solutions are a befitting manner for settling differences between nations.

I also take advantage of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished regard.

[signed] Luis Aycinena Salazar, deputy minister foreign relations in charge of the ministry

ARMED MEN ATTACK FORMER POLICE CHIEF

PA282231Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Former police chief Mr Salvador Antonio (Monteroso) was attacked by armed men yesterday evening. His bodyguard, Carlos Garcia Guerras, died during the attack, which was carried out from an unidentified vehicle that was driven alongside the pickup truck occupied by Mr (Monteroso) in Guatemala City's Zone 9.

The attackers used submachineguns. The truck was riddled with .45 caliber bullets, resulting in approximately 50 bullet holes in the truck. The bodyguard died at the scene of the attack. The former police chief was taken in a Red Cross ambulance to the emergency room of Guatemala's Social Security Institute.

Mr (Monteroso) is a member of the security corps of President-elect Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia. The attack took place approximately 300 meters from General Lucas' campaign headquarters.

HONDURAS

CHIEF OF STATE RETURNS FROM UNITED STATES

PA301919Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1606 GMT 30 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro, Honduran chief of state, returned to Tegucigalpa today, Sunday, after spending 1 week abroad. He underwent a medical examination in a hospital in Houston, Texas.

Melgar arrived at the Villeda Morales International Airport in San Pedro Sula, in the northern part of the country, on Saturday. From the airport he went to his San Antonio hacienda located near Rio Lindo on the highway to Tegucigalpa.

The government house said that the chief of state's health is highly satisfactory. The cause of the illness for which he went to the United States for medical attention was not disclosed.

An official spokesman also announced that the chief of state will resume his duties tomorrow, Monday, 1 May, International Labor Day.

NICARAGUA

SANDINIST ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA PROTESTED

PA290446Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0415 GMT 29 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 28 April (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government has again protested activities carried out by members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in Costa Rican territory. The protest note is based on statements issued a few days ago by FSLN leader Plutarco Hernandez Sancho, who said that Costa Rica is a sanctuary for FSLN preparations against the regime of President Anastasio Somoza. Foreign minister Julio C. Quintana's protest states that, although the value of statements by a common criminal --Plutarco has been sentenced to 16 years in jail in Costa Rica--is very relative, the Costa Rican Government must be aware that the FSLN moves freely in the country.

Military Contingent Mobilized

PA290301Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2252 GMT 28 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 28 Apr (AFP)--According to several press reports published here, a military contingent estimated at 300 men was mobilized today in the country's southern area near the border with Costa Rica. Official sources, nonetheless, have denied rumors that a new guerrilla attack has taken place in San Carlos, on the border between the two countries. The mobilized forces reportedly consist of recruits from the infantry school under the command of the Nicaraguan president's son, Maj Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero. According to other sources, the new recruits are simply engaged in military maneuvers and are carrying out their first simulated antiguerrilla operation.

HUNGER STRIKE ENDS AS SOMOZA YIELDS TO DEMANDS

PA300200Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0014 GMT 30 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 29 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The hunger strike held by 126 persons for 33 days at the offices of the Red Cross in Managua and other parts of the country was definitely called off today. Mothers of university leaders, secondary school students, labor representatives, Sandinists and journalists participated in the strike to pressure the government to improve prison conditions for political prisoners and to put an end to solitary confinement imposed on Sandinist prisoners Marcio Jaen and Tomas Borge.

The hunger strikers were headed by Albertina Serrano de Jaen. Although her health suffered, she was supported by other sectors of the population and finally obtained humane treatment for her son Marcio and the other prisoners. Another of the demands made to the government was the transfer of nine female Sandinist prisoners from the central police jail in Managua to the model jail. In this respect, in an interview granted yesterday to a delegation of parents and student representatives, President Anastasio Somoza explained that, since transfer to the model jail is impossible, the government will follow the recommendation of the International Red Cross commission which visited both jails this week. The government also agreed to confine Sandinist Maria del Carmen Gomez, who recently gave birth in the military hospital of Managua, to her home instead of keeping her in jail, which was implemented today.

Somoza assured the delegation which visited him at the presidency that no reprisals will be taken against the students, workers and opponents who participated in the various anti-government demonstrations of the last few weeks. He further promised to release the youths now in detention in different jails of the country on the same charges.

Prior to the evacuation of the Red Cross offices by the hunger strikers, leaders of the different schools, the labor movement and journalists held a meeting at the journalists house in Managua. The speakers emphasized that the victory was possible due to the solidarity and unity of the different sectors of Nicaraguan society.

CONGRESS APPROVES PARTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

PA281215Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0205 GMT 27 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Apr, (ACAN-EFE)--A plenary session of the Nicaraguan Congress, comrpised only of legislators of the (ruling) Nationalist Liberal Party, this afternoon approved partial amendments to the constitution. This occurred because, when the ruling [dictamen] and the overall bill were discussed, the deputies and senators of the (minority) Conservative Party, the only legal opposition group, walked out of the meeting hall in rejection of the amendments.

The Liberal deputies and senators supported the amendments, noting that the bill serves the "purpose of expediting the country's political evolution by placing all political parties on an equal electoral footing, regardless of ideology." One of the amendments repeals the ban on the Communist Party and other political organizations with similar ideologies.

After approval by the two houses of Congress, the bill on constitutional amendments will be forwarded to the executive branch. Afterward, in order to be enacted into law, it will have to be discussed and approved by a second [segunda] legislature.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MENGISTU DELEGATION VISIT

LD3015540Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1710 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] A joint communique issued in Havana and Addis Ababa at the end of a 6-day day friendly official visit paid to Cuba by Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provincial Military Administrative Council [PMAC] chairman, states that the Ethiopian revolution has made history in present-day Africa. Here is the text of the joint communique issued in both capitals:

Joint communique issued by Cuba and Ethiopia:

Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the PMAC and of the Council of Ministers of socialist Ethiopia, paid a friendly official visit to the Republic of Cuba from 21 to 27 April 1978 at the invitation of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party [PCC] and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers.

The delegation accompanying Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam on his visit included Comrade Lt Col Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, PMAC standing committee member in charge of defense affairs; Comrade Maj Endale Tessema, PMAC standing committee member in charge of Central Committee affairs; Comrade 2d Lt Tamirat Ferede, PMAC standing committee member in charge of information and public relations; Comrade 2d Lt Mengistu Gemechu, PMAC standing committee member and assistant to the chairman; Comrade Capt Melaki Tefari, PMAC Central Committee member and PMAC representative in the Gondar region; Comrade Lt Tessema Belay, PMAC Central Committee member and PMAC representative in the Kaffa region; Comrade 2d Lt Eshetu Alemu, PMAC member and PMAC representative in the Gojjam region; Dr Tefari Wondu, minister of health; Col Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs; Ato Tesfaye Mekonne, secretary general of the Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs; Ato Getachew Kibret, political adviser in the office of the chairman; Ato Hadis Antheneh, deputy commissioner of the central planning commission, and Ato Aemero Wondi Magennehu, Ethiopian ambassador to Cuba.

Comrade Fidel Castro cordially welcomed Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, PMAC chairman, in the Cuban capital, Havana. He told Comrade Chairman Mengistu of his pleasure at the victories won by the revolution of the broad masses led by him, both in the defense of the country's territorial integrity from foreign invaders and in the defeat of international conspiracies. He disclosed that it is his hope that revolutionary Ethiopia will score even more successful results in the future.

The Ethiopian delegation noted that the Cuban people came out en masse to express their most profound feelings of friendship when Comrade Chairman Mengistu and the delegation led by him toured Havana, Cuba, and Santiago [words indistinct] to listen to the rousing speech by Comrade Chairman Mengistu at the Plaza de la Revolucion on the anti-imperialist revolution of Ethiopia, on the common struggle of Cuba and Ethiopia to build socialism and on their friendly relations. The Government of the Republic of Cuba awarded the Playa Giron medal to Comrade Lt Col Mengistu as a token of appreciation for his contribution toward the freedom of the Ethiopian people and his efforts toward strengthening friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Cuba and Ethiopia.

In their wide-ranging friendly talks, Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam and Comrade Fidel Castro studied at length problems concerning the two countries. During their talks they held a broad exchange of views on the strong solidarity between Cuba and Ethiopia and the results of the efforts of both countries to build a new society and also on international issues.

The officials representing the Government of the Republic of Cuba at the talks were Ramiro Valdes, Guillermo Garcia, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Osvaldo Dorticos, Armando Hart, Sergio del Valle, Pedro Miret and Arnaldo Milian, members of the PCC Political Bureau; Antonio Perez Herrero and Raul Valdes Vivo, of the Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee; Division Generals Senen Casas Reguiro, Abelardo Colome Ibarra and Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez; Lionel Soto Prieto, Central Committee member in charge of foreign affairs; and Jose Perez Novo, Cuban ambassador to Ethiopia.

During the lengthy talks, Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam explained in detail the progress and gains of the Ethiopian revolution. Comrade Chairman Mengistu explained to Comrade Fidel Castro the Ethiopian people's struggle against imperialist conspiracy and internal and external enemies on the one hand and, on the other, the struggle to defend the gains of the revolution from reactionary forces and to safeguard the country's territorial integrity.

Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed his deep appreciation for the unreserved internationalist support and solidarity which the Cuban people, the Government of the Republic of Cuba, the PCC and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz have given to the Ethiopian struggle. Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu explained that Ethiopia will follow its anti-imperialist and anticolonialist stand in its (?foreign policy) and develop the friendly relations and solidarity it has with other countries. Comrade Chairman Mengistu explained that the Ethiopian revolution rates very highly Cuba's consistent foreign policy as laid down by the PCC and party First Secretary Comrade Fidel Castro and the gains made by the Cuban revolution in the economic, social and cultural fields.

During the talks, Comrade Chairman Mengistu confirmed that the unwavering, determined and courageous strategy of struggle shown in the past 20 years by Comrade Fidel Castro and his comrades in arms has crowned them with victory over imperialism and enabled Cuba to set an educational example to all progressive people.

The Cuban participants in the talks also expressed their admiration for the Ethiopian people for their victory over the invasion attempt in the east and southeast after a glorious fight in defense of their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They confirmed that the progress and strength of the Ethiopian people have played a major role in the history of Africa and that they are, moreover, making a major contribution to the struggle to wipe out imperialism, colonialism, racism and reactionary conspiracy. The Cuban side valued highly the fact that the Ethiopian people overthrew one of the most reactionary regimes of our time and won major victories in a very short time, thus opening the path to freedom for millions of human beings under the exploitative yoke of the feudalists, capitalists and bourgeoisie.

With regard to the international situation, the two sides welcomed the satisfactory change in the stand of certain forces on the international scene in support of socialism, national independence, social progress and international peace. These changes are the result of the strength of the socialist community, particularly of the USSR and its political advancement; the major victories achieved by the popular national liberation movements, and the struggle being waged by the working class and other progressive forces for social progress and peace. Ethiopia and Cuba said that they support detente and the easing of tension and friction in international relations due to these changes and severely condemn the capitalist governments that oppose this policy.

The two sides voiced support for an agreement banning the testing of all nuclear weapons and banning weapons (?of mass destruction). During these talks the two sides discussed [word indistinct] the prevention of the manufacture of new weapons with tremendous destructive capacity as an urgent issue. The two sides disclosed that they supported the reaching of satisfactory agreements on this issue.

The Republic of Cuba and Ethiopia expressed their support for the principle of the nonuse of force as an inviolable international law and expressed their wish for the signing of an international agreement that would make the nonuse of force in international (?disputes) binding.

Detailing the situation in the Horn of Africa, the two sides condemned the dangerous moves by imperialism and its reactionary collaborators in the region to put the (?forces) in the region under their control and satisfy their exploitative interests by planning to propagate war among African peoples. The two sides disclosed that they realized that imperialists and their reactionary collaborators in the region had risen against the Ethiopian revolution by uniting their forces for their invasion plans and that implementation of their plans would have meant the destruction of present territorial boundaries and the erection of new ones. They also encouraged separatists and supported territorial claims on tribal and religious affiliations.

The two sides noted that the Red Sea is a very important international shipping lane of great service to the international community and to countries bordering on the sea, particularly Ethiopia. They severely condemned the joint military exercises conducted by the naval forces of NATO countries, which are designed as a provocation and intimidation and whose aim is to create chaos. The two sides disclosed that they completely reject the imperialist plan to use the Red Sea as a weapon for the implementation of policies of imperialists and reactionary Arab governments and, on the other hand, support efforts to make the Red Sea a region of peace, free of imperialist interference.

The two sides condemned the present campaign by Somalia, whose armed forces had launched an armed invasion, and other imperialist forces and their collaborators in the region who had falsely alleged that Ethiopia was going to invade Somalia in order to undermine the integrity of Ethiopia and its people.

Cuba reiterated its belief that, for lasting peace to reign in the Horn of Africa, Somalia must renounce openly and without any preconditions its territorial claims and expansionist plans against Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti. It must stop all activities directed against the territorial unity and integrity of those countries and accept these conditions as its unavoidable responsibility. The two sides reiterated their respect for the principles of the OAU and UN charters and resolutions expressing the inviolability of the territorial boundaries of states.

After expressing concern about the situation in the Middle East, Cuba and Ethiopia severely condemned the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The two sides pointed out that there can be no just and lasting peace guaranteeing freedom for the countries of the region until Israel withdraws from the Arab territories it has occupied since 1967, until the right of Palestinian Arabs to their own independent state is recognized, and until the PLO is recognized as the legal representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The two sides reiterated their solidarity with the progressive forces that have formed a front in opposition to imperialist conspiracy and the policy of ractionary Arab governments. They also expressed their solidarity with the PDRY, which is courageously resisting invasion by imperialists and reactionary forces.

Ethiopia and Cuba disclosed their support for the people of Western Sahara in their genuine struggled for the recognition of their right to determine their own affairs.

After detailing the situation in southern Africa, the two sides restated their support for the people of (?Zimbabwe) and Namibia, who are struggling for their independence against racists and the white minority governments of Rhodesia and South Africa. They also condemned the U.S. and British conspiracy to put into action the plan designed to replace the Rhodesian white minority government with a puppet government that would be an instrument for imperialist hegemony and to disperse the armed forces of the Zimbabwe patriots. The two sides reiterated their unreserved support for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front.

Besides reconfirming their support for the independence of Namibia, the two sides reiterated their unwavering support for the legal representative of the Namibian people--SWAPO. They condemned efforts being made to divide any part of the Namibian territory and to maintain the interests of the imperialist exploiters by setting up a puppet government.

The two sides expressed their solidarity with the genuine fighters for independence, who are struggling to overthrow the fascist government of South Africa, which represents racism and the hated apartheid policy.

Cuba and Ethiopia condemned the invasions of Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana in line with their supportfor the liberation movement in southern Africa. Besides expressing their support for the Angolan revolution led by the MPLA Labor Party and Comrade Agostinho Neto, the two sides severely condemned the unreserved efforts of imperialism, reactionaries and the ascists of South Africa to hinder the progress of the revolution being conducted in this country, which is [word indistinct]. They pointed out that the victory of the Angolan people over the South African invasion and the defeat of the reactionary forces which tried to establish neocolonialism had improved the position of the African people in their struggle for independence.

After assessing the situation in the Indian Ocean, the two sides condemned imperialist conspiracies and said that the existence of military bases such as Diego Garcia would jeopardize the territorial unity and integrity of the countries in the region and their legal interests.

They expressed their support for the just demand of the Comoro Government for the return of [name indistinct] island.

Admiring the victory of the heroic Vietnamese people under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist part founded by President Ho Chi Minh, they expressed their solidarity with Vietnamese socialist (?society) in its efforts to resurrect (?itself) after the heavy (?devastation) inflicted by the expansionist invasion of imperialism and to build a socialist society in peace. They similarly expressed their support for the struggle of the Korean people to effect a peaceful and independent (?reunification) without outside interference.

With regard to Latin America and the Caribbean, the two sides admired the struggle of the people in this region of the world against (?U.S.) imperialism and reactionary regimes in Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and elsewhere. The two sides reconfirmed their complete support for the genuine struggle of the people of (Patraco) for their independence. They expressed their solidarity with the people of Panama struggling to defend the territorial integrity and unity of their country, and also with the (?struggle) of the Nicaraguan people that was started by the great Latin American hero Agostino Pedro Sandino.

They pointed out that even though U.S. imperialism, using new tactics, is posing as an advocate of human rights and claims that human rights might be suppressed, in fact it is the United States itself that is trying all it can to curb and wipe out the struggles of peoples for national and social liberation, oppressing many millions of its own workers as well as the oppressed peoples of Latin America and elsewhere.

The U.S. Government builds up military bases all over the world and has many thousands of soldiers in many countries. On the other hand, it claims that it and it alone can interfere in the affairs of nations. One of the military bases is the Guantanamo military base in Cuba. This is in direct contravention of the wishes of the Cuban people, and it is against international law to keep it under colonial rule. This military base has existed since the beginning of this century, and this was the time when in Panama [words indistinct], when Puerto Ricans were put under colonial rule and when a neocolonial government was established in Cuba.

Cuba and Ethiopia are firm in their stand of nonalinement and, based on this, they are resolved to make unreserved efforts to see in action the sword that has been drawn to fight imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racial and color discrimination, and Zionism.

The two countries have demanded the establishment of an economic order in which the social welfare of the peoples can be improved, in which the struggle against economic backwardness can be strengthened and which espouses internationalism.

Ethiopia has disclosed that it supports the nonalined conference to be held in Havana in 1979 and is ready to participate with high spirits in the Youth and Student Festival to be held in this same city for peace and international unity. For its part, Cuba supports the international unity conference to be held in Ethiopia to discuss the struggle of the Africans and Arab peoples against imperialism and reactionary forces.

Both sides disclosed that it is necessary to strengthen further cooperation between the countries of the Third World and socialist countries, the real friends of these countries. They believe that the strengthening of the common front of these countries is a prime guarantee for world peace and a decisive force in intensifying the struggle to withstand the invasion of imperialism. Both sides reaffirmed that they believe in the need for the aid which has been given and is being given by the USSR and other socialist countries to peoples struggling for their national liberation.

Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, on behalf of the PMAC and Council of Ministers, has invited Comrade Fidel Castro and Comrade Raul Castro to pay a friendly visit to socialist Ethiopia. Comrade Fidel Castro and Comrade Raul Castro have accepted the invitation. The exact date of their visit will be decided later after consultation.

MENGISTU HAILE CUBAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

FL291728Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Thousands of persons gathered at Bole airport in the Ethiopian capital to welcome Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam on his return from a friendly and official visit to Cuba. The Ethiopian revolution leader told the enthusiastic crowd gathered there that the demonstrations of friendship toward Ethiopia which he observed in Cuba came from the hearts of the Cuban people.

He explained that the welcome he and his delegation had received in Cuba exceeded all expectations. The ties of friendship between Cuba and Ethiopia have been sealed in blood, and the internationalist nature of our ties have now raised relations between the two countries to their highest level, the Ethiopian leader emphasized.

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF ARRIVES

PA010340Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 78 PA

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf arrived in Cuba today at the head of a delegation. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers, welcomed the Iraqi vice president and his party.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca; Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez; President of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation Hector Rodriguez Llompart, and other Cuban officials were also on hand to welcome the Iraq vice president.

Vice President Interviewed

PA302328Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 78 PA

[Text] In an interview with the Cuban newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE, Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf said that his country is trying to build a prospercus and developed country in which Arabs and Kurds can live together. The vice president heads an official delegation arriving in Havana today at the invitation of the Cuban Government.

Ma'ruf emphasized that the authenticity of the Iraq revolution lies in its ideology defined by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and that it remains closely linked with the struggle and aspirations of the masses within the socialist community.

He also said that one indication of the success of the nonalined movement is the importance that people have attached to the sixth summit conference to be held in Havana next year.

ALMEIDA, ANDREW YOUNG MEET AT UNITED NATIONS

FL300014Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of Council of State and Council of Ministers, has received at the United Nations the U.S. permanent representative to that world organization, Andrew Young. The talk, held at the request of the U.S. permanent representative, dealt with the situation in the southern Cone of Africa, especially Namibia, and Cuban-North American relations.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada and Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri were present at the meeting which, according to a Cuban mission spokesman, was conducted in a respectful atmosphere.

HAVANA COMMENTATOR REVIEWS NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE CASE

FL290236Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Apr 78 FL

[Armando Lopez Junco commentary]

[Text] The UN General Assembly extraordinary session on Namibia, which the international organization has been holding since Monday and should end on 3 May, is a confrontation between forces for progress in the world and murky imperialist, reactionay forces. On the one side is the loathsome beast who heads the racist South African regime--John Balthazar Vorster--and his government, which has signed a plan drafted by the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany and Canada. These are called the "group of five." The plan calls for an end to hostilities, an escalated withdrawal of the South African troops that occupy Namibia, and massive participation by the United Nations, including a contingent of the so-called blue helmets. It is important to note that the aim of an end to the hostilities is to have the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, lay down its arms. Following the creation of united popular forces in 1960, SWAPO has been the one organization that has created a military force capable of achieving independence, sooner or later, through armed struggle.

The UN personnel, military as well as civilian, would be led by a special representative of the UN secretary general who would supervise the process. However, there also would be a general administrator appointed by the racist South African Government.

In announcing its acceptance of the so-called plan of the group of five, Pretoria has indicated that its acceptance was conditioned on a guarantee that the Namibian patriots would suspend their actions before any withdrawal of the racist forces, estimated at some 5,000 military troops, and that during the transition period the regime's police forces would be responsible for what it called law and order.

Walvis Bay, an important deep-water port located on Namibian territory annexed by the South African regime, would remain under control of the racists, according to the plan, after the proclamation of an allegedly independent Namibian state.

At this point it is important to note some historical background which will help in understanding the strange proposal by the group of five and the objectives sought by them. In 1920, after the German defeat in World War I, the defunct League of Nations granted to South Africa the administration of Namibia as a trusteeship. According to arguments at that time, this was done because of South Africa's proximity to the former German colony. By 1948 the United Nations, which emerged following the defeat of Nazi fascism, demanded that South Africa abandon the occupation of Namibia. Far from doing so, Pretoria has maintained its illegal occupation of Namibian territory and taken over the strategic Walvis Bay port where, it is asserted, oil and gas have been discovered. Moreover, the bay is a vital point for passage to the Cape of Good Hope.

Furthermore, South Africa ignored a decision of the International Court of Justice, which more than 10 years ago declared the occupation illegal. It also ignored the Un General Assembly resolution adopted during an extraordinary session in 1967 which created the UN Council for Namibia that was to take charge of administration until independence. Year after year the United Nations has adopted similar decisions which always have clashed with South Africa's arrogant contempt.

This contempt has been made possible by the open or covert support of the imperialist powers. That support is explained by the interests of these powers in the rich Namibian territory. The country's immense diamond resources are primarily exploited by Consolidated Diamond Mines of South Africa, a subsidiary of Angolo-American. Companies from Great Britain, United States, Italy and Japan participate in the exploitation of copper. Unrefined copper is exploited by U.S., Belgian and West German companies. Companies from the same countries extract concentrates of copper, lead, zinc and so forth. Furthermore, Namibia s potentially the largest producer of uranium in the world.

This is the secret of South Africa's resistance to its withdrawal from Namibia and of the existence of forces which have made it possible for South Africa to disregard the most elemental international standards. Despite all this background, the current situation is not the same as the one when the imperialists were able to excel with impunity. The liberation of Angola and other African countries, including the triumph of the Ethiopian revolution, are obvious proof.

As the chief of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations during this extraordinary session--Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, vice president of the Cuban Counil of State--has declared, the United Nations this time is obliged, in a precise manner, to give its support to SWAPO, the organization headed by revolutionary leader Sam Nujoma. With their heroic struggle, the high-ranking Cuban leader said, with their persistent adherence to the cause of independence and freedom, and with the militant solidarity of all progressive governments and forces, the Namibian people, led by the SWAPO, its only and legitimate representative, will overcome the obstacles they are now facing and will achieve full exercise of their national rights.

OFFICIALS RECEIVE SOCIALIST WOMEN LEADERS

FL292117Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2109 GMT 29 Apr 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, other members of the Central Committee and other officials have met in Havana City with presidents of women's organizations in socialist countries. Fanny Edelman, secretary general of the Women's International Democratic Federation, attended this meeting. She and the representatives of women's organizations have been participating in a meeting in our country. Valentina Tereshkova, chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee, also attended the meeting in representation of the visiting women's organizations leaders. The foreign visitors were accompanied by Vilma Espin, president of the Cuban Women's Federation and member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State.

The meeting with the presidents of women's organizations in socialist countries was held in a fraternal atmpshere. Matters of national and international interest were discussed.

INTERIOR MINISTRY MEMBERS DECORATED 30 APRIL

FL300029Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Luis Orlando Dominguez, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists--UJC--National Committee and member of the PCC Central Committee, in Havana today presided over a presentation ceremony of the Pedro Soto Alba award to a group of young combatants of the Interior Ministry--MININT. Senior MININT Officers also presided over the ceremony. Maj Alfonso Rodriguez, member of the UJC National Committee, made the closing remarks. Among other things he said: [begin Rodriguez recording] Young men like you must complete the work whose foundation was built by our heroes and martyrs and which today is advanced with the sweat and sacrifice of the workers. The future does not belong to the capitalists or to the imperialists; the future is the smile of people, of children. The future belongs to socialism, to communism. [end recording]

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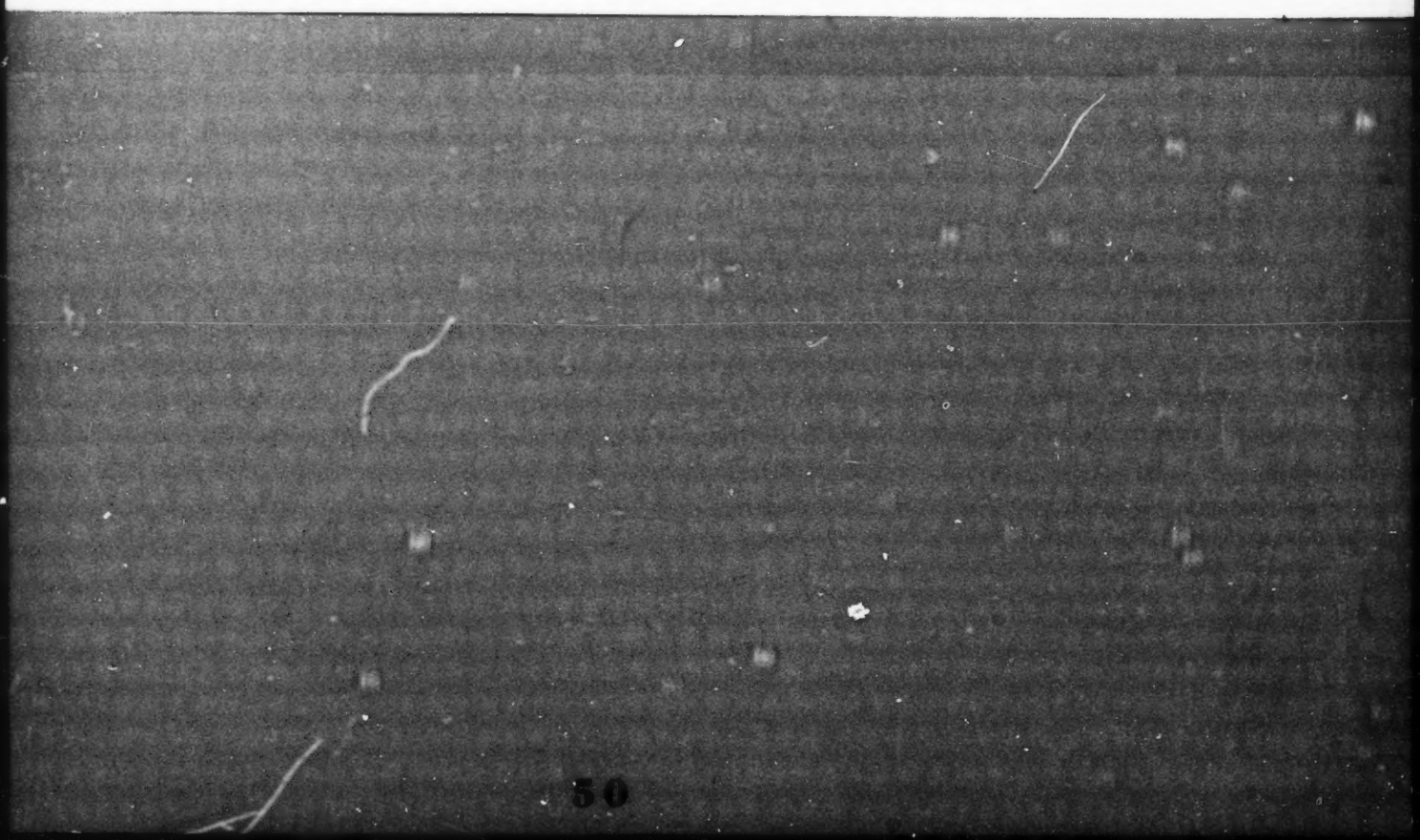
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